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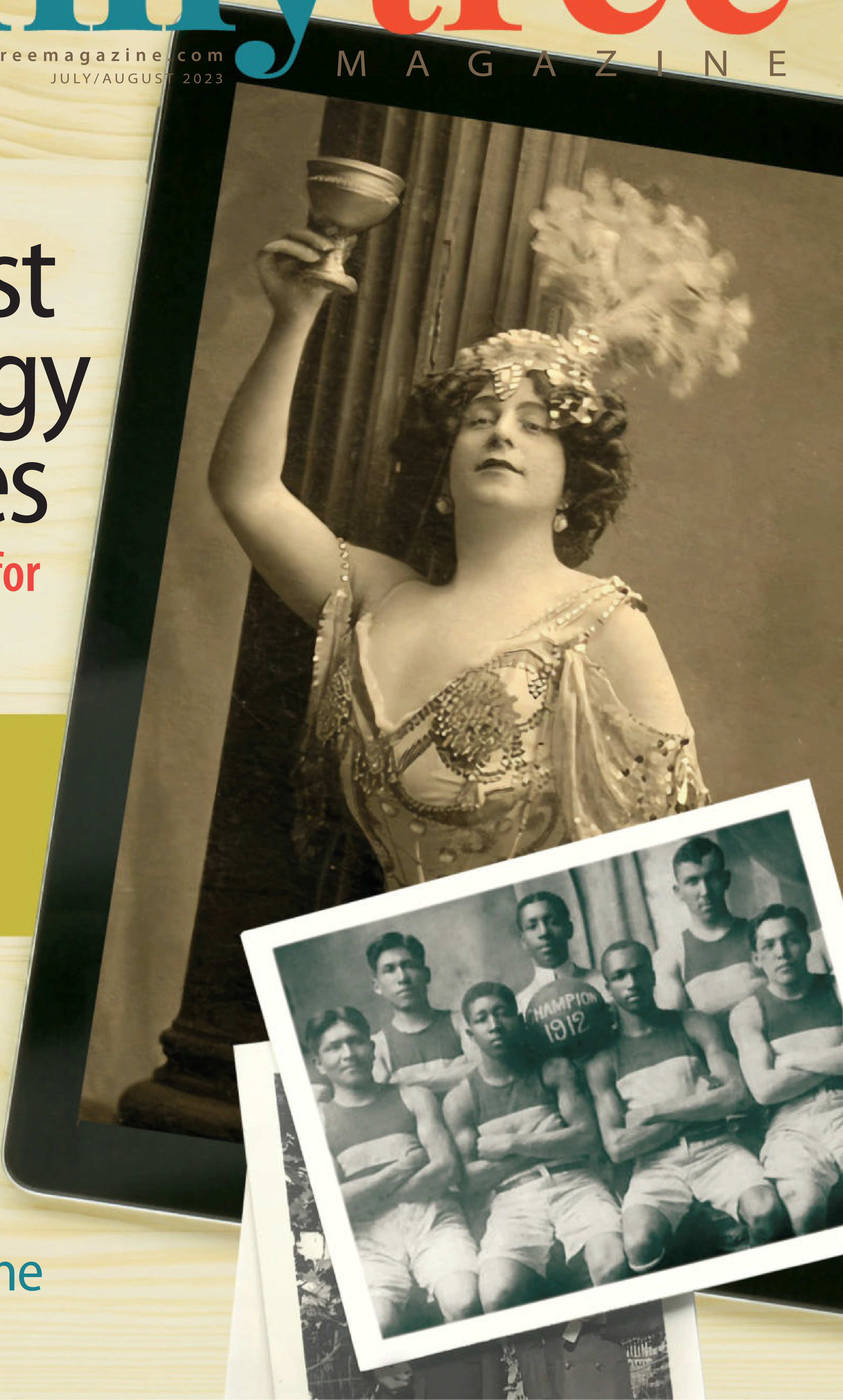
The Science of **DNA Testing**

Find **Family Heirlooms** Online



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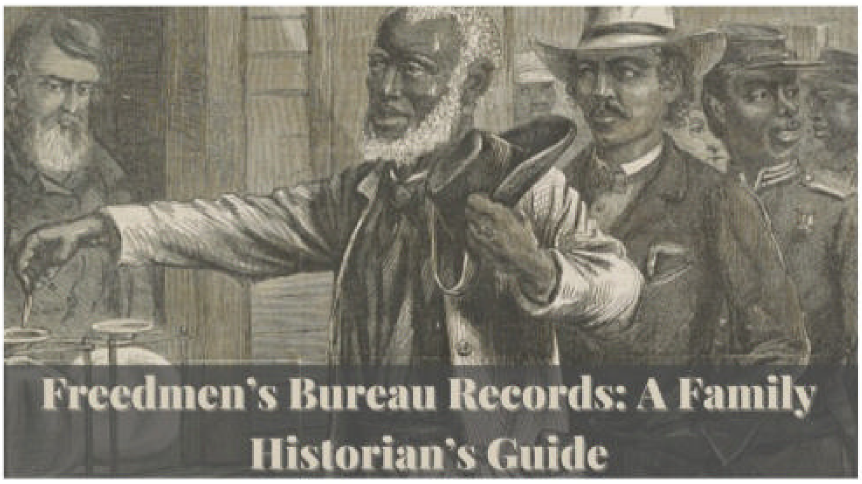
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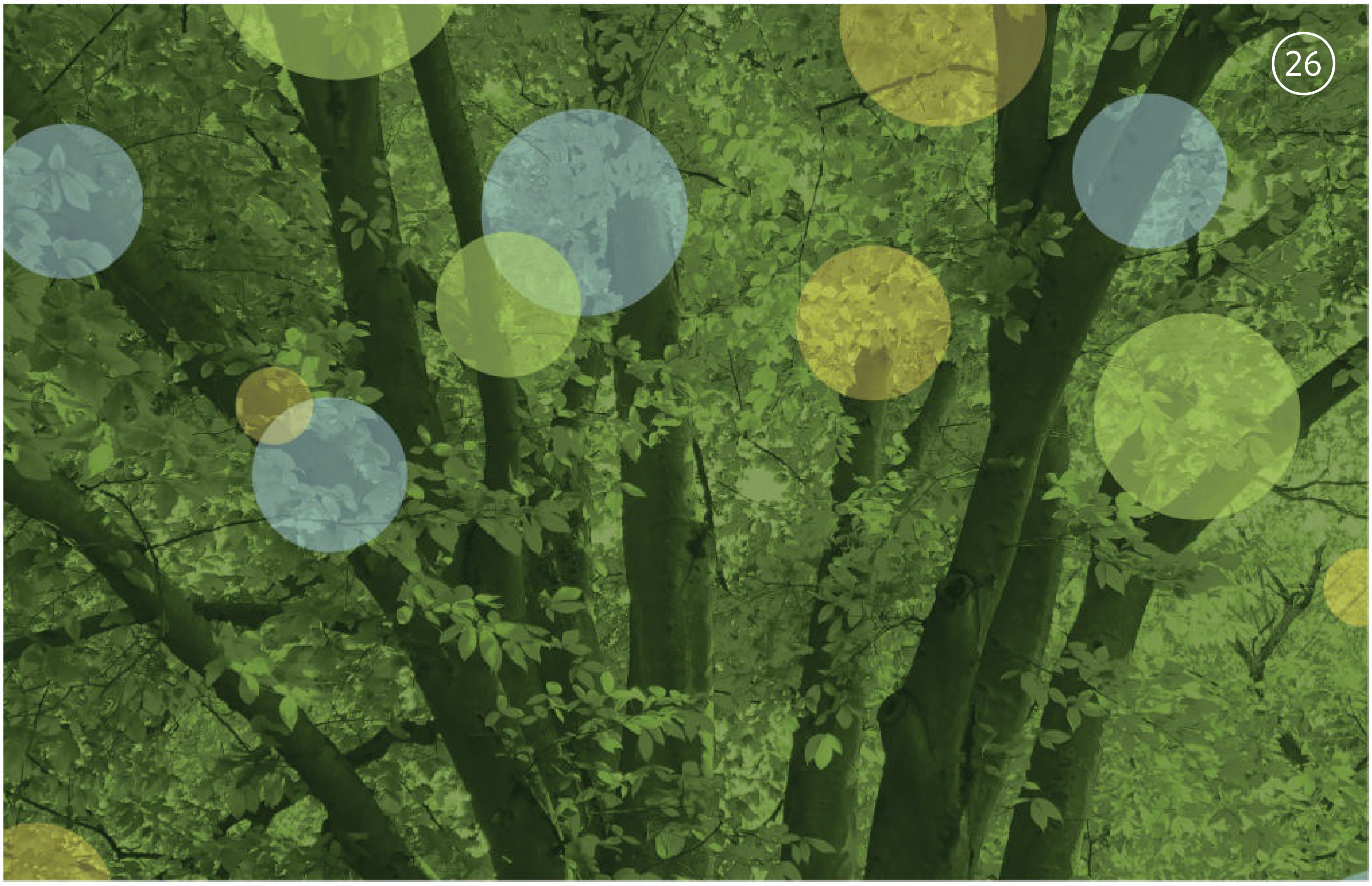

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COVER: JULIE BARNETT
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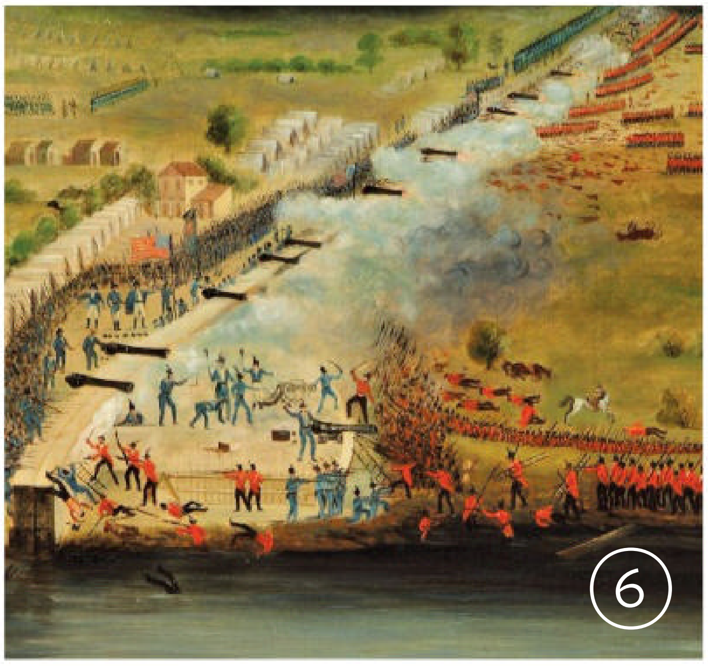

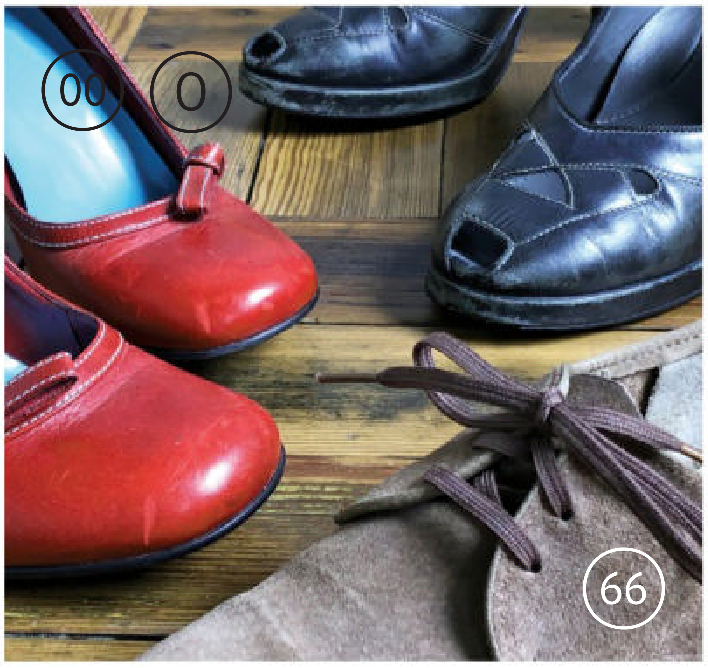

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out on a **limb**

PHOTO CREDIT: BOTOS PHOTOS

It amazes me how far technology has come in such a short amount of time.

I think back to a famous announcement Apple CEO Steve Jobs made in 2007. Apple would release three new products, he said: an iPod with touch controls, a mobile phone, and a "breakthrough internet communication device."

The twist? Those "three products" were a single device: the iPhone.

Sixteen years (and dozens of iPhone models) later, smartphones have changed how we do just about everything. Not too long ago, you couldn't be on the phone and internet at the same time. Now, phones don't just connect to the internet, they also take pictures, build to-do lists, keep calendars, play music, stream live video, and give driving directions.

Oh, and they occasionally make phone calls. Your smartphone really is an all-in-one device.

As with every new tech tool, genealogists have been quick to apply smartphones to their family history research. From the palm of your hand, you can review DNA results, pull up a digitized family tree, virtually travel to your ancestor's hometown, or tap into the vast holdings of genealogy websites. (See our annual list of the 101 Best Websites on page 12.) You can even scan photos and documents; we've got a roundup of the top mobile-scanning apps on page 48.

What's the next big revolution in genealogy tech? One candidate is artificial intelligence, which we discuss on page 7. But it's also possible that—like envisioning smartphones in the age of dial-up internet—we can't even imagine it yet. ●

Andrew P. Koch

TREE TALK

We asked about your favorite mobile app for genealogy. Here's how you responded.

TurboScan to capture documents at repositories.

Candice Lynn Buchanan via Facebook

Arbor Familiae on my tablet … but only for a quick review, not used to input data.

Allan Scahill via Facebook

I RARELY USE ANY APPS ON MY PHONE. All my genealogy work is done on a desktop with a large monitor. Probably will add a second monitor because I do a lot of documentation while I am researching.

Laura Clinton Vasut via Facebook

Find a Grave

John Brown via Facebook

ANCESTRY APP. Today my niece called while I was at work and said she was at a cemetery with her children and could I tell her where her family is buried! I was able check the app, tell the religious section they were in, download a photo of one of the headstones so she knew what to look for, and find the address they resided at, all in an instant. And I may have just snagged the next generation! I also use it to check my DNA matches in my breaks at work.

Chris de Longville via Facebook

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5 QUESTIONS *with:*

Cyndi Ingle - *Creator, Cyndi's List*

AS RESEARCHERS IN 2023, we have an embarrassment of riches when it comes to online genealogy resources. In fact, there are so many websites useful to family history that it can be hard to decide which are worth your time.

Enter Cyndi's List <www.cyndislist.com>, a database of some 317,000 curated genealogy-related links. The site, which has been online for more than 27 years, sorts resources into subject categories that range from "Handwriting & Script" to "Taxes," and "Acadian, Cajun & Creole" to "Writing Your Family History."

Cyndi's List has been a mainstay in our annual list of the 101 Best Genealogy Websites, first published in April 2000. That same issue featured an interview with site creator Cyndi Ingle that dubbed her "Queen of Links."

We caught up with Ingle again and asked about her time working on the site—and how genealogy research itself has changed in recent decades:

1 What inspired you to start Cyndi's List?

In the summer of 1995, I got a new computer with a modem and I went online. I attended my local society's "show and tell" meeting that fall and brought with me a list of everything I could find online for genealogy. One whole page.

I was immediately swamped with members who wanted a copy of it. The society's quarterly editor approached me and asked if I could turn that into a five- or six-page article. And I realized if I did that, I would have to split it up into categories. That was published that fall.

On 4 March 1996, I published my personal genealogy site and I included that list of links as a side-piece of interest. I immediately had people asking me to add a link to their website. This started out with me spending a couple of hours every day adding links, and by 1998, it had become more than a full-time job.

2 What's changed about the "genealogy internet" since you launched the site?

Early on, all that we had online were derivative sources: indexes, transcriptions, etc. Publishing actual images was expensive, and most people were still on dial-up for internet access, which meant slow loading for images. Today we are so incredibly lucky and spoiled to have access to original records around the globe.

3 In your opinion, what's the most underused genealogy website?

Other than Cyndi's List? Ha! Seriously, people don't use it as much as they should, assuming that everything is Google-able. Deep-linking into resources specific to genealogical research is the strength of Cyndi's List.

Aside from that, I would have to say that libraries and archives are the most underused. Special collections, local history collections, and manuscript collections are full of amazing finds. People need to have more-targeted focus in their research-planning and search out those collections that will provide them with rich content.

4 What challenges do you face maintaining such a large database?

The biggest issue is broken links. I have some links from 1996 that still work fine, and others that are only one or two years old and have already broken. I rely on people to let me know when links are broken using the button provided on every page. Often if one link is reported, it will lead me to correcting many others at the same time. Because I put a lot of effort into deep-linking several levels down in a website (where all the good stuff is hiding), I find that the broken links are the result of a site being redesigned and getting a new structure.

5 What kind of family history resources are still *off*line?

More than we realize. Anything in small towns with no budget to move things to a digital life online. For example, lots of newspapers still living on microfilm in a library. They remain offline mostly because of a lack of funds to get them digitized and to host them online. Thankfully, FamilySearch does a lot to work with repositories to get them digitized, preserved and published online.

See page 12 for this year's list of the 101 Best Genealogy Websites, which includes Cyndi's List (page 24).

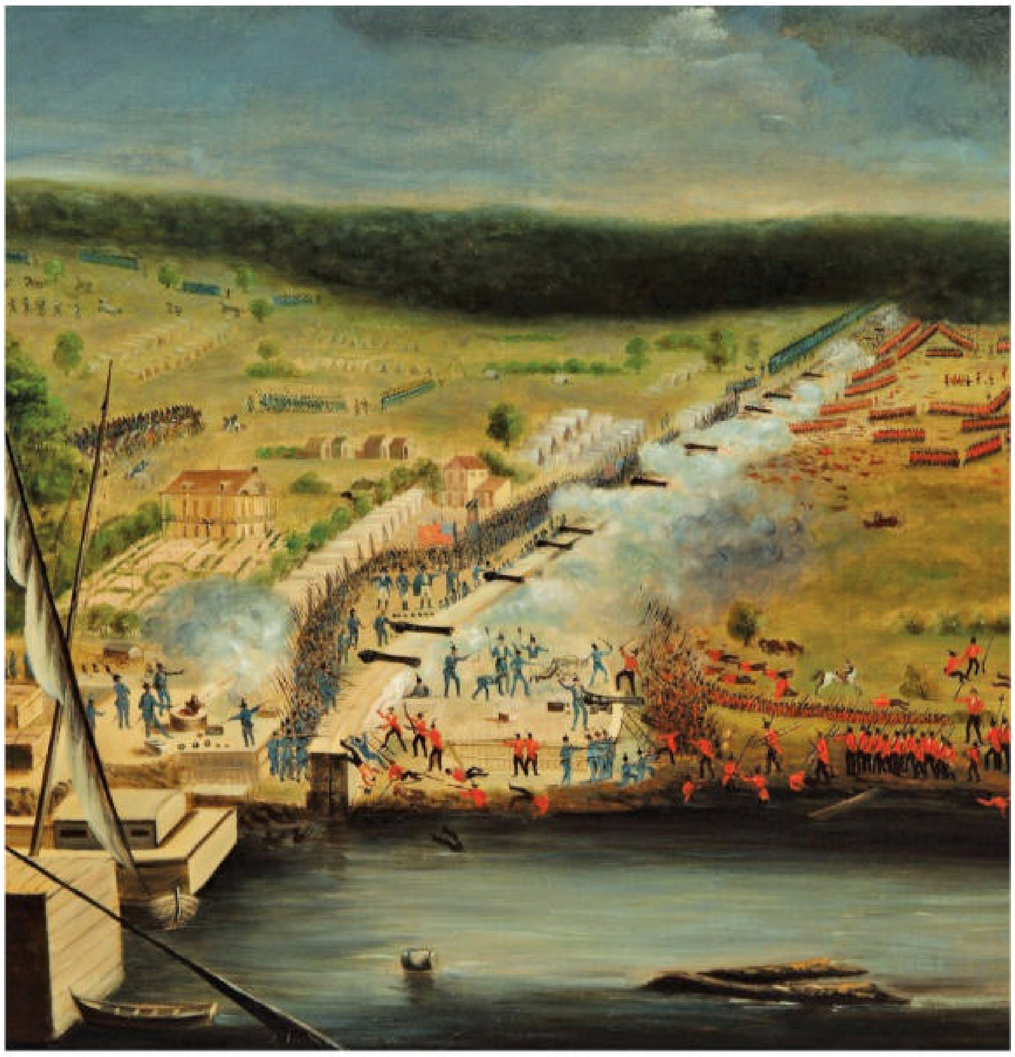
WHAT'S NEW

'Preserve the Pensions' Returns

THE NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (NGS) announced that the "Preserve the Pensions" project, which has digitized millions of pension application file pages from the War of 1812, will resume. The partnership between NGS, Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com> and the U.S. National Archives <www.archives.gov> had been on hold partially due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project began in 2008, when the National Archives approached the Federation of Genealogical Societies (now part of NGS) about a need to save War of 1812 pension files. The files had never been microfilmed and were rapidly deteriorating. By 2016, individuals, various genealogy societies, FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org> and Ancestry.com contributed more than $4 million to fund the effort.

NGS expects that pension files for soldiers who had surnames through the letter *U* should be digitized by April 2024. Learn more about the project at <www.ngsgenealogy.org/preserve-the-pensions>, and view digitized records for free on Ancestry.com's sister site Fold3 <www.fold3.com/publication/761/war-of-1812-pension-files>.



The War of 1812's famous Battle of New Orleans, as painted by a member of the Louisiana militia

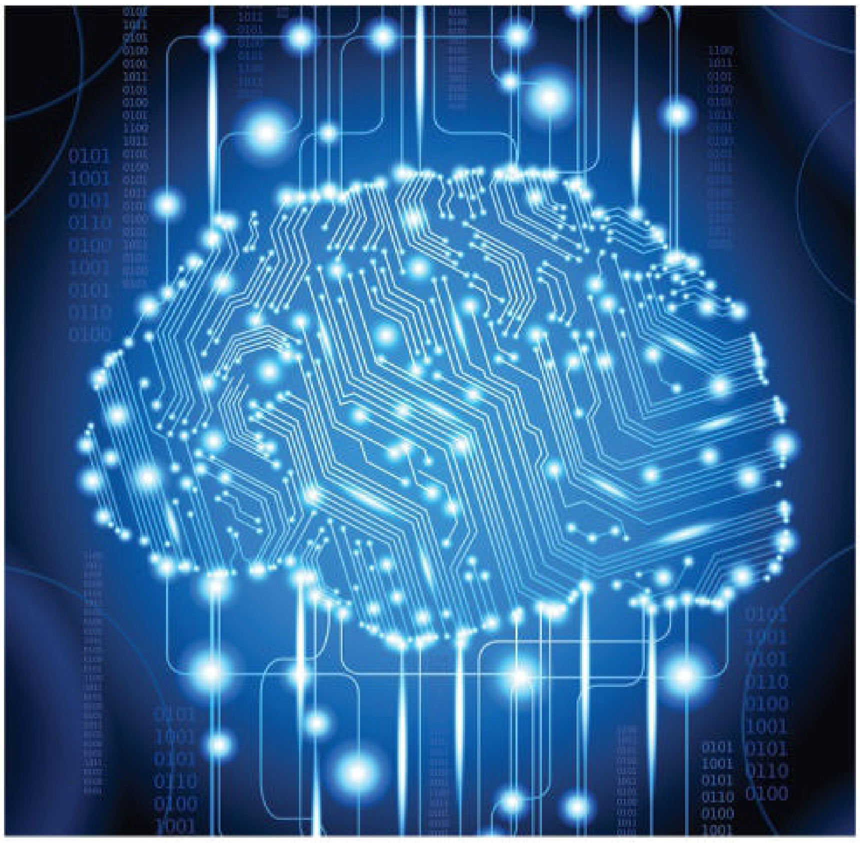
NEW U.S. ARCHIVIST CONFIRMED

Dr. Colleen Shogan began her tenure as Archivist of the United States in May. As the head of the National Archives and Records Administration, Shogan coordinates its mission of "safeguarding and preserving the records of our government, so people can discover, use, and learn from this documentary heritage." NARA holds several records of genealogical value, notably federal censuses, military records, and immigration and naturalization paperwork.

Shogan was nominated to the position by President Joe Biden in August 2022, then confirmed by the U.S. Senate nine months later. She is the 11th person—and the first woman—to hold the position permanently. She takes over for David S. Ferriero, who retired in April 2022.

BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS: MUSEUM OF ART VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS; SHOGAN: COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION; AI: ADOBE STOCK; FEDERAL BUILDING: KEN LUND VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Genealogy and AI



THE TECH WORLD HAS BEEN BUZZING about advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) since the November 2022 release of ChatGPT. For many, the chatbot represents a significant leap forward in AI's ability to generate language—a blessing or a curse, depending on your point of view. Despite rising concerns about copyright, accuracy and privacy, big companies like Google and Microsoft have launched their own tools, with other major tech companies heavily investing in AI technology.

Family historians have taken notice, even if (in some ways) AI is nothing new. Genealogy websites have been using AI-assisted tools for years: optical character recognition (OCR) to index images, record-hinting algorithms, tools that enhance and colorize old family photos, and more.

Several bloggers have written this year on what ChatGPT can (and can't) do for genealogists. Dutch genealogist Yvette Hoitink, for example, determined ChatGPT could adeptly translate foreign-language text, but failed at accurately finding information about specific ancestors <www.dutchgenealogy.nl/five-good-and-bad-ways-to-use-chatgpt-for-genealogy>.

Genetic genealogy expert Blaine Bettinger and records activist Daniel Loftus have partnered on a Facebook group specifically about genealogical applications of emerging AI technology <www.facebook.com/groups/genealogyandai>. The group, formed in January 2023, had more than 3,500 members as of this writing.

DNA PAINTER

NEW DNA PAINTER TOOL

Site founder Jonny Perl launched a new, long-requested feature for DNA Painter's chromosome maps: the cM Slider, which allows users to filter out DNA segments under a certain size. This makes longer segments—which, when shared between two DNA matches, generally correspond to closer genealogical relationships—easier to identify in a chromosome map. Read Perl's blog post at <www.dnapainter.com/blog/finally-a-cm-slider-for-chromosome-maps>.

APPEALS COURT DISMISSES CASE AGAINST ANCESTRY.COM

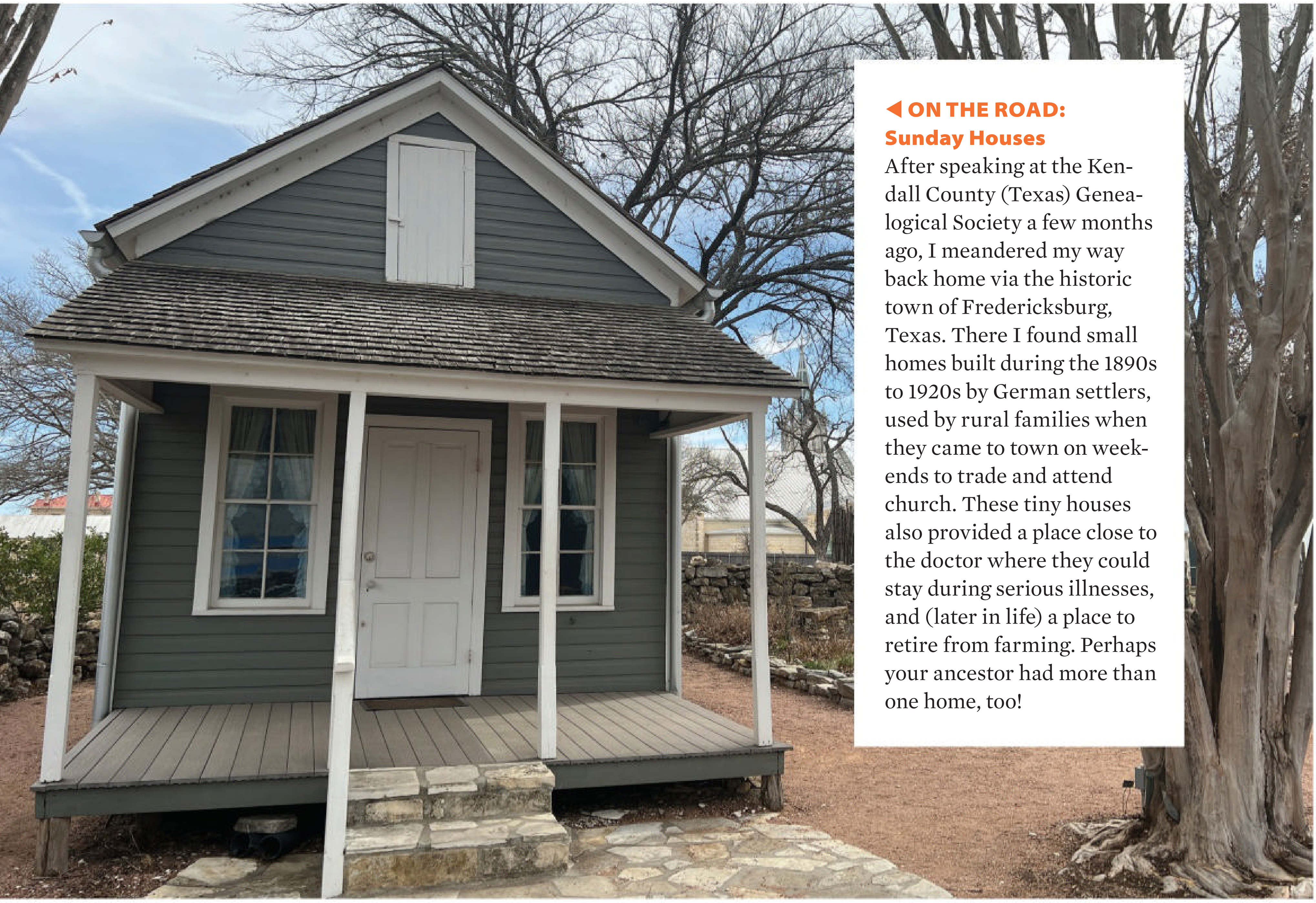
Chicago's Dirksen Federal Building, seat of the Seventh Circuit court of appeals that dismissed a suit against Ancestry.com

In May, a federal appeals court ruled that Ancestry.com's owner, Blackstone, didn't violate an Illinois genetic privacy law by simply acquiring the website.

A class-action lawsuit, filed in November 2021, alleged that Blackstone illegally forced Ancestry.com to share private DNA information (as well as names and email addresses) of test takers. But Blackstone denied the claim and stated all DNA data is anonymized. Federal district and appeals courts agreed, finding insufficient evidence of "compulsory disclosure" of DNA information and dismissing the lawsuit.

The case serves as a reminder to carefully read website terms and conditions before submitting data, including DNA information. ●

Finding Home(s)



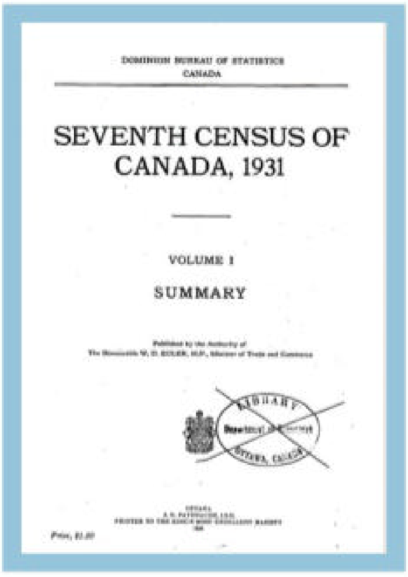
◀ ON THE ROAD: Sunday Houses

After speaking at the Kendall County (Texas) Genealogical Society a few months ago, I meandered my way back home via the historic town of Fredericksburg, Texas. There I found small homes built during the 1890s to 1920s by German settlers, used by rural families when they came to town on weekends to trade and attend church. These tiny houses also provided a place close to the doctor where they could stay during serious illnesses, and (later in life) a place to retire from farming. Perhaps your ancestor had more than one home, too!

Lisa Louise Cooke *is the founder of the Genealogy Gems website and podcast <www.lisalouisecooke.com>, and host of the Family Tree Podcast <www.familytreemagazine.com/genealogy-podcast>.*

▶ RECORD RICHES: 1931 Census of Canada

After a 92-year wait, the 1931 census of Canada is expected to go public on 1 June 2023. The enumeration offers insight into the 10 million-plus people who lived in Canada that year. Researchers can browse more than 230,000 digitized census pages by geographic district and sub-district at the Library and Archives Canada website <library-archives.canada.ca>. As with the 1950 US census, Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com> and FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org> will work together to publish and review AI-generated indexes for the census created using handwriting-recognition technology. The completed indexes will be searchable through Library and Archives Canada, FamilySearch, and Ancestry.ca. Read more about the 1931 census of Canada at <www.familytreemagazine.com/heritage/canadian/1931-census-canada>.



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CANADA

SEVENTH CENSUS OF
CANADA, 1931

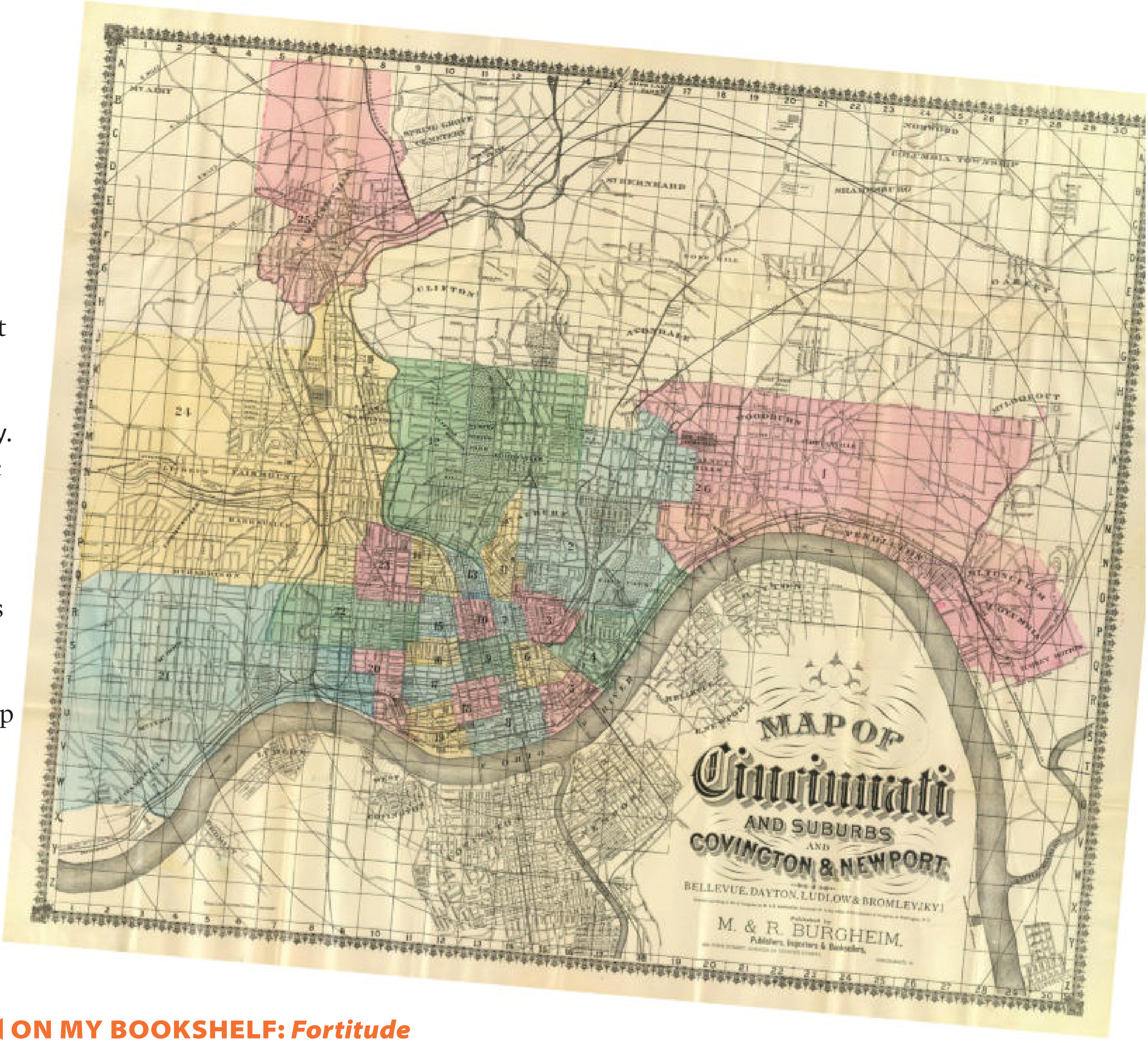
VOLUME I

SUMMARY

HOME: COURTESY LISA LOUISE COOKE; MAP: DAVID RUMSEY MAP COLLECTION
CANADA CENSUS: COURTESY GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PUBLICATIONS

▶ DIGITAL COLLECTIONS: 120k Maps at David Rumsey

Old maps help us place our ancestors in a geographic context during a particular time frame. The David Rumsey Map Collection database <www.davidrumsey.com> has always been a fantastic source for maps that are free to use. They recently announced the collection has grown to over 120,000 maps and related images dating as far back as 1550, and all are free to download in high resolution. At right is an 1880 map of Cincinnati, hosted by the site.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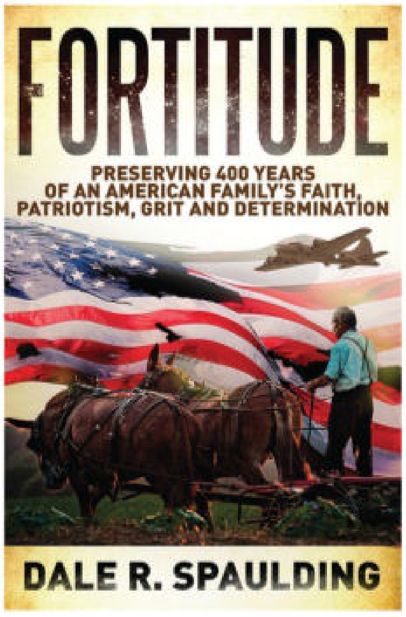
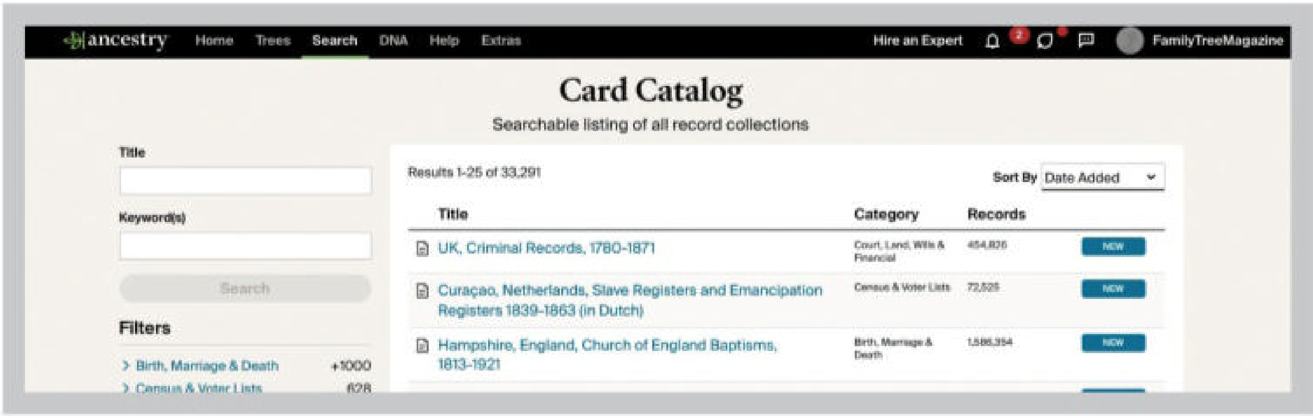

FORTITUDE
PRESERVING 400 YEARS
OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY'S FAITH,
PATRIOTISM, GRIT AND DETERMINATION
DALE R. SPAULDING

◀ ON MY BOOKSHELF: *Fortitude*

Dale Spaulding <www.dalespaulding.com> discovered remarkable stories as he researched his family over the last 30 years. But he got a little worried that these uniquely American stories were going to be lost to time if he didn't do something about it. Determined to preserve that family history, he sat down and wrote *Fortitude: Preserving 400 years of an American Family's Faith, Patriotism, Grit, and Determination* (Gatekeeper Press). It's a book that will inspire you not only with tales of an American family fueled by faith, patriotism and determination, but also to write your own family's story.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Curaçao, Netherlands, Slave Registers and Emancipation Registers 1839-1863 (in Dutch)	Census & Voter Lists	72,525	NEW
Hampshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1921	Birth, Marriage & Death	1,586,354	NEW

▲ RESEARCH TIP: 'Date Added' on Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com automatically generates record hints for users, but these cover only a small portion of the site's records. That's why I recommend searching specific collections using the Card Catalog <www.ancestry.com/search/collections/catalog>. You can filter collections by place or record type—or by the date they were added. Look for the Sort By dropdown at the top of the screen, and make sure Date Added is selected. This will sort collections in reverse age order, allowing you to review the newest uploads for possible avenues of research.

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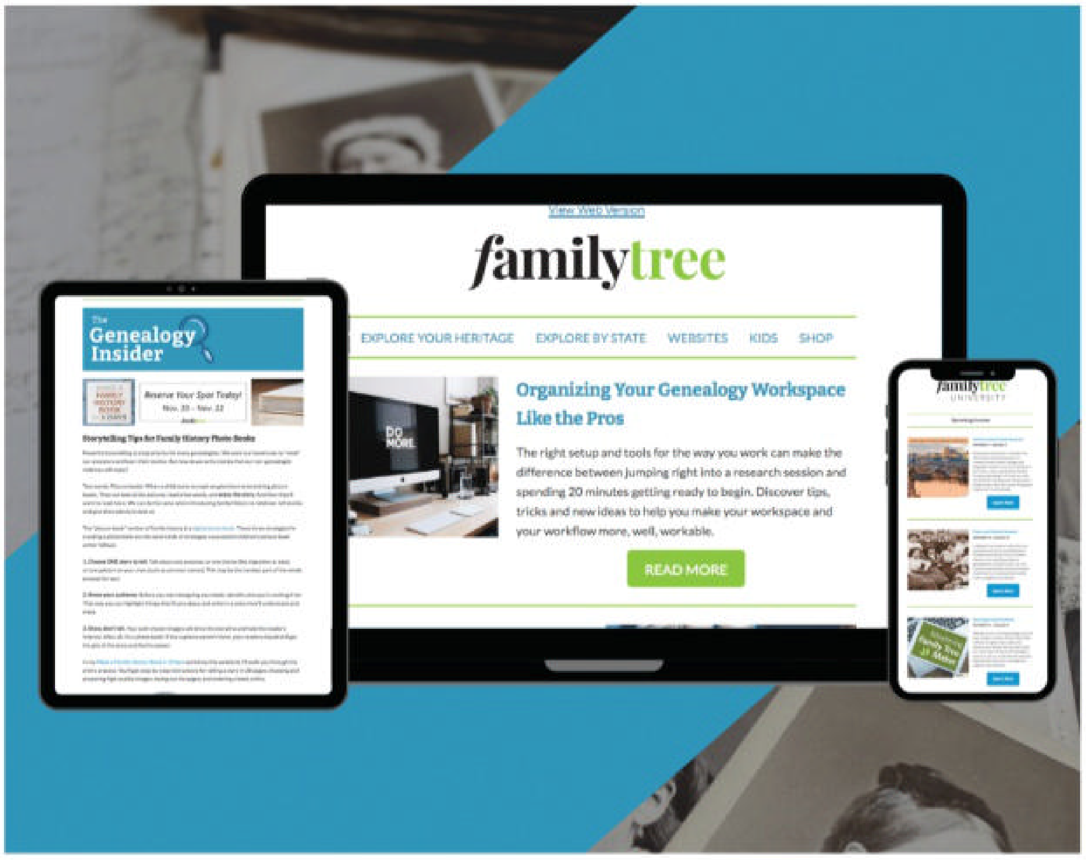
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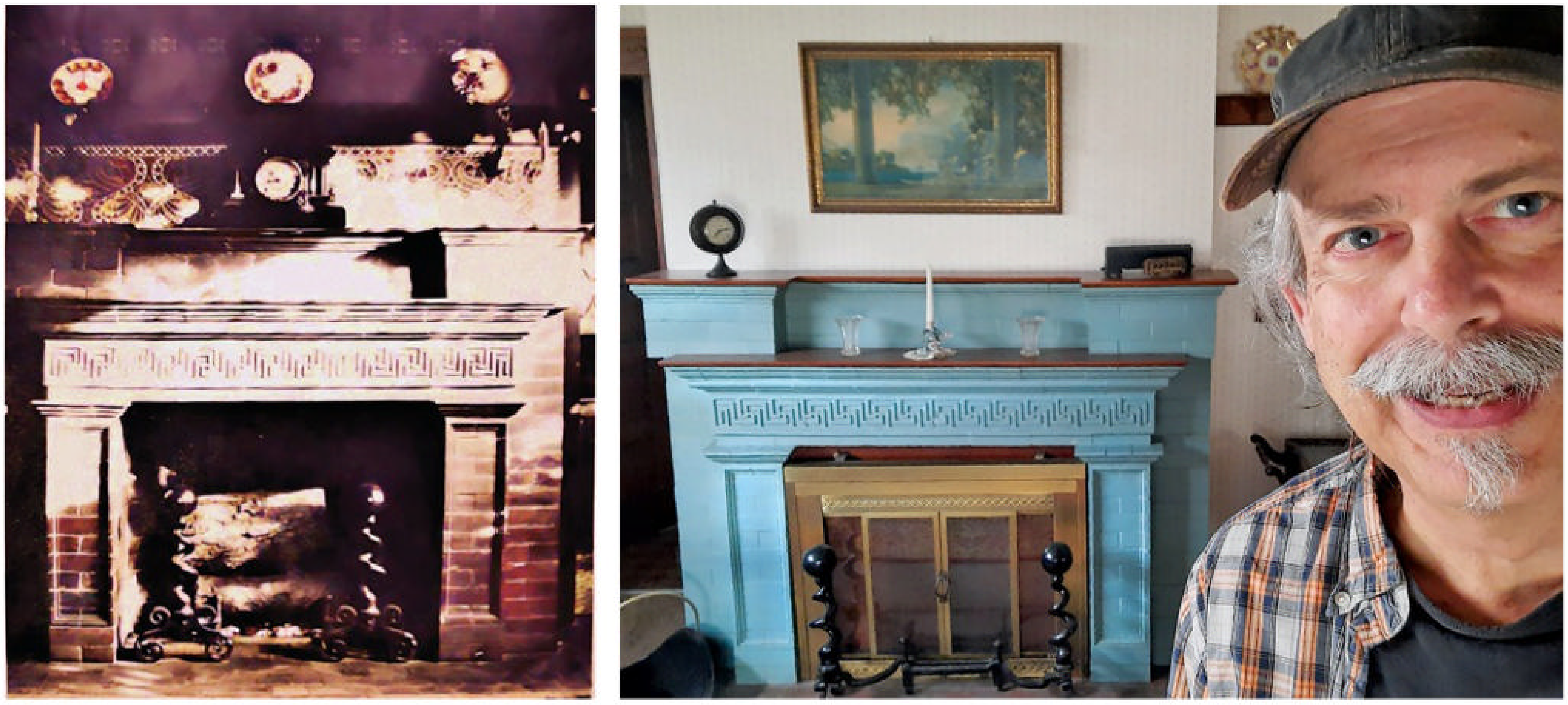
<www.familytreemagazine.com/genealogy-insider-newsletter>

Close to Home



Researcher Tom Neel (right) bought an ancestral home and has uncovered keepsakes there, like a historical photo of the fireplace (left).

Living in an ancestral home continues to spur new family history discoveries.

When you live in your ancestral home, you may unexpectedly come across history that hits … well, close to home. Such is the case for Tom Neel of New London, Ohio.

A local historian and the retired librarian for the Ohio Genealogical Society, Neel has spent decades exploring history relating to his family and community. About 35 years ago, he purchased the home his family had lived in since 1905, when his great-grandfather bought it.

“This is where we always came when we were kids: It’s been the center of our family,” Neel said. “It’s got nice architecture and woodwork.”

And the house happened to be on the market when Neel was shopping for a home. Over the years, he’s discovered family mementoes tucked away in closets: letters, photographs and even a bag of memorabilia from a cousin’s WWII service.

Though the home has preserved his family’s story, it’s been less revealing of its *own* history. Neel only had one photo of the interior as it was long ago, showing his great-aunt’s old bedroom in its prior role as a dining room.

“In the early 1900s, people around here just didn’t take pictures inside [the house],” he says. “We have many exterior photographs of homes and businesses in New London, but the interior ones are real treasures!”

Recently, Neel was looking through memorabilia at his mother’s house when he found an old snapshot album that he hadn’t seen since the 1970s. It belonged to his grandmother, and the photos date from the 1920s. Inside was a familiar-looking picture: his fireplace.

Neel shared the photo on Facebook, along with a wish that it was in color. A Facebook friend colorized it, which Neel said helped him see more details: a plate rail above the mantel, fancy wallpaper, and more-vivid floor covering than he initially thought. Part of the plate rail is even still in his basement.

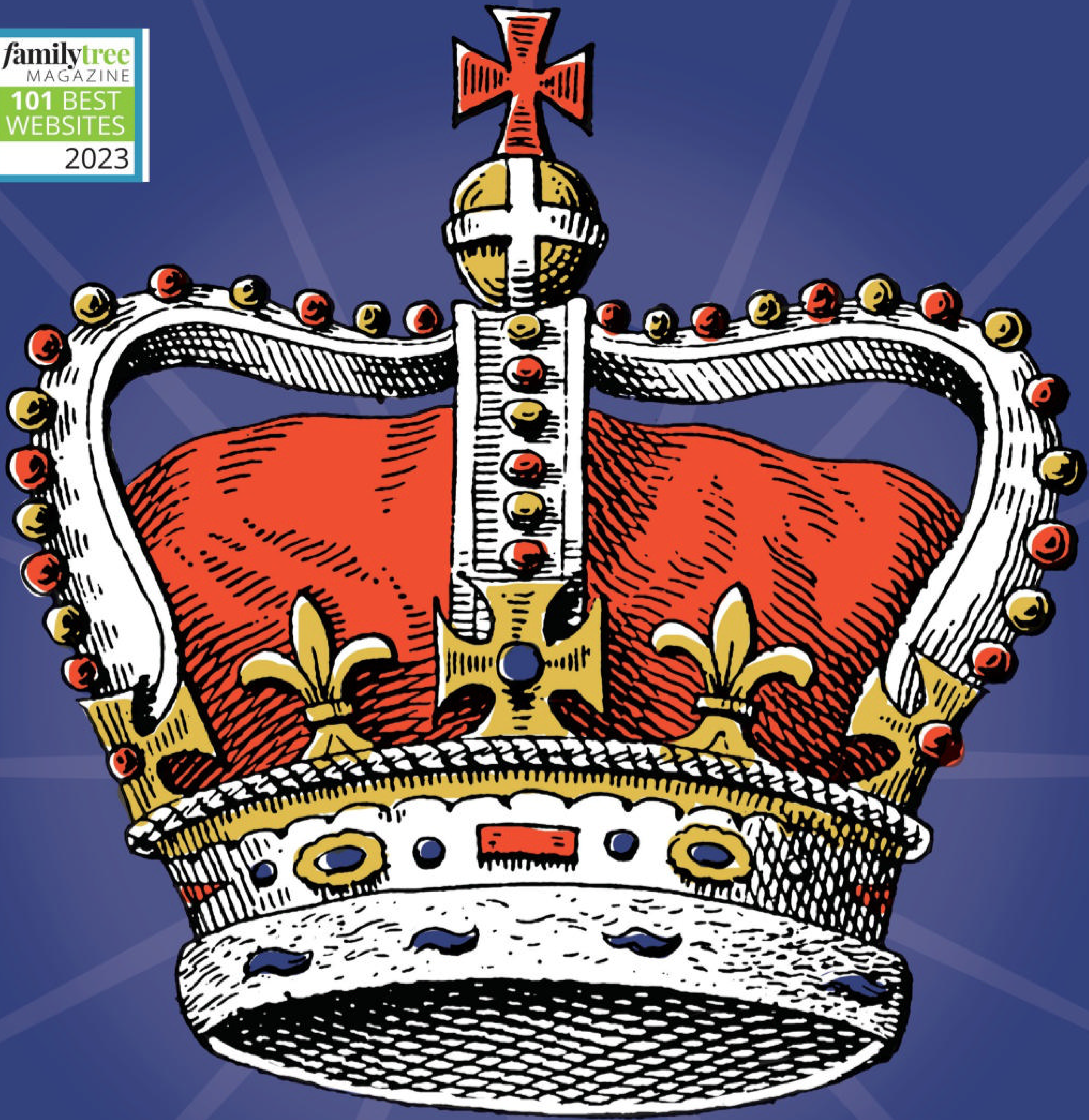
Is Neel inclined to reinstall the plate rail or try to replicate the 1920s look? No. “The plate rail just seems too close to the mantel for my taste,” he says. “And I think I’m beyond major renovation projects at this point.” But he’s considering displaying a copy of the picture in the room, just to show the history.

Discoveries like these deepen his connection to the history that surrounds him every day. “That’s what can happen if you live in a family home,” he says. ●

Sunny Jane Morton

COURTESY TOM NEEL

familytree MAGAZINE 101 BEST WEBSITES 2023



Crown Jewels

These 101 Best Genealogy Websites
will give your family history the royal treatment.

by DAVID A. FRYXELL

It's been a royal few years, from Netflix's dramatic series "The Crown" to Prince Harry's tell-all *Spare* to King Charles III's coronation. Given Americans' fixation on British royalty, it's almost as though we colonials would rather just forget all that unpleasantness back in 1776.

Fittingly, then, this year's annual celebration of the 101 best genealogy websites presents the "crown jewels" of online family history. We've hand-picked the sites whose offerings are fit for a king—and those virtually guaranteed to help resolve the royal pains in your ancestral research. If your pedigree isn't quite as well-preserved as that of the Prince of Wales, these digital destinations can help separate true blood relatives from pretenders.

This year's honorees, by default, are largely free to use, unless noted otherwise with a dollar sign ($). Those premium sites require a subscription or other payment to really get the most value from their content.

As usual, we've marked sites that were not in last year's list with an asterisk (*). These 18 new discoveries (or honorees returning after an absence) are worthy of royal recognition. And we've spun off a separate list for US state-specific websites; find entries on pages 20 and 21 or at <www.familytreemagazine.com/best-state-genealogy-websites>.

Ready to explore the 101 sites crowned this year's best? We begin, of course, with the winning websites for researching ancestors from the British Isles.

UK and Irish Genealogy Websites

The National Archives (UK)

<www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

More of a how-to resource than a data trove, this site does enable downloads of military records, wills, migration records and more for free. See our guide <www.familytreemagazine.com/heritage/english/uk-national-archives>.

* $ Deceased Online

<www.deceasedonline.com>

This "central database for UK burials and cremations" lets you search digitized registers by location, burial authority, and crematorium. You can also find photos and maps of graves and memorials. A basic annual subscription (about $125) buys 450 record views, or you can purchase records a la carte.

$ FamilyRelatives.com

<www.familyrelatives.com>

This subscription site ($44.95 per year) covers 1.2 billion records from 18 countries, but it's by far strongest on the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries. Basic census, military and parish records are here, along with more-obscure resources such as trade directories and probate registers.

* GENUKI

<www.genuki.org.uk>

Short for "GENealogy for the United Kingdom and Ireland," this volunteer-run "virtual reference library" has grown since its 1995 founding to more than 110,000 information-packed pages. Content ranges from getting-started guides and gazetteers to advice and links for all parts of the British Isles, even the Isle of Man and Channel Islands.

The National Archives of Ireland

<genealogy.nationalarchives.ie>

Start your Irish ancestral quest with this site's censuses (1901, 1911 and surviving fragments), marriage license bonds, crew lists, will registers, tithe applotment books, Catholic convert rolls and more.

National Library of Ireland

<www.nli.ie>

After exploring the old photos, newspapers and manuscripts, hop over to the browse-only Catholic parish registers, accessible by clicking on the map at <registers.nli.ie>.

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

<www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni>

Use the Name Search to scour early wills and censuses with a single click, or research in will

CROWN: ISTOCK; DESIGN: JULIE BARNETT

calendars and freeholders' records. Old maps and street directories can also help you zoom in on your Ulster kin.

RootsChat

<www.rootschat.com>
The United Kingdom's "busiest, largest free family history forum site" boasts more than 6.6 million posts from some 288,000 members. Register for free to join in.

$ RootsIreland

<www.rootsireland.ie>
You can spend a day searching here for $18 or subscribe for a whole year ($264) to access "the most extensive and easily searchable database of Catholic Church records anywhere online"—23 million in all, collected from 34 county genealogy centers.

$ ScotlandsPeople

<www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>
Emigration and 1881 census records at this National Records of Scotland site are totally free. But you'll need to pay to view other types of records, including other censuses (such as the recently released 1921 census), church records, wills, and valuation records. Pay-per-view options start at 30 credits for about $9.50. "Quick People Search" looks for your Scottish ancestors in all collections that have personal names using a single click.

* Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland

<www.virtualtreasury.ie>
Launched in 2022, this ambitious project aims to re-create records lost 100 years ago when the Irish records office at Four Courts burned. You can search across manuscript and text records of 50-plus million words, and even virtually "walk" through the old, multistory archives building to retrieve records from their original locations.

Big Genealogy Websites

$ Ancestry.com

<www.ancestry.com>
Still the king of subscription database collections, Ancestry.com now boasts more than 30 billion records, plus 100 million hosted family trees. Full global access to records runs $480 per year, but keep an eye out for deals (including a discount for bundling with Newspapers.com and Fold3). AncestryDNA ($99) has over 23 million people in the world's largest consumer DNA network.

FamilySearch

<www.familysearch.org>
Drawing on the vast resources of the FamilySearch Library (formerly the Family History Library), FamilySearch added nearly 2 billion searchable names and images in 2022 for a total of 16.3 billion historical records and images. Plus its Digital Library <www.familysearch.org/library/books> of full-text, searchable scanned books now totals more than 550,000 volumes, and its collaborative family tree (see page 26) covers nearly 1.5 billion individuals.

$ Findmypast

<www.findmypast.com>
Though not as big as Ancestry.com or FamilySearch, Findmypast exceeds the competition in British Isles coverage. Recent additions include more British military records, 21st-century death records, entries from the 1939 Register, and Britain's 1921 census (Premium only, $240 per year). Findmypast is also useful for US and Commonwealth research.

$ MyHeritage

<www.myheritage.com>
Rapid expansion for this site has boosted MyHeritage to more than 19 billion records, with notable additions of Scandinavian and French data. It still offers tree-hosting and -building, and will use your trees to generate alerts to possible record matches and connections to others' trees. MyHeritage also has various tools for old family photos, and offers its own $89 DNA test.

US and Canadian Genealogy Websites

$ American Ancestors

<www.americanancestors.org>
This subscription site ($99.95 per year) from the New England Historic Genealogical Society remains the go-to destination for regional research. Its more than 1.4 billion records also

extend beyond New England, including the largest searchable collection of published genealogical research journals and magazines.

* Congregational Library & Archives

<www.congregationallibrary.org/nehh/main>
This new-in-2022 online digital collection features tens of thousands of church birth, death and marriage records from New England, mostly spanning 1634 to about 1850.

Ellis Island Passenger Search

<heritage.statueofliberty.org/passenger>
Find your immigrant ancestor among the 65 million records of arrivals through the Port of New York searchable here.

Genealogy Trails

<www.genealogytrails.com>
Launched in 2000 to transcribe Illinois records, this volunteer site has grown into a nationwide transcription resource, with state sites similar to USGenWeb. Recent additions include Revolutionary War veterans' obituaries, prisoner rolls, biographies and even chuckwagon recipes.

Library and Archives Canada

<www.bac-lac.gc.ca>
A 2022 facelift makes this website—an essential resource for all things Canadian—even easier to explore: censuses (including the newly released 1931 count), vital records, immigration and passenger records, land transactions, military service records and more.

Library of Congress

<www.loc.gov>
Explore old photos and maps (including Sanborn fire insurance maps for all 50 states plus some locations in Mexico, Canada and Cuba), music, Americana and much more.

National Archives and Records Administration

<www.archives.gov>
The "nation's attic" now boasts a faster, completely redesigned catalog and enhanced image-viewing. Learn about the now-available 1950 census, discover old maps and historic photos, order veterans' records, research WWII enlistments and immigrant arrivals, request Social Security records, and more. Check out our complete guide in the September/October 2022 issue <www.familytreemagazine.com/websites/archives-gov>.

Victoria, 1837

* NYC Historical Vital Records Project

<a860-historicalvitalrecords.nyc.gov>
After years of severely restricting access, the New York City Municipal Archives has launched a mass-digitization project. Already more than three-quarters complete, it will include 13.3 million historical birth, death and marriage records 1900s, with coverage of all five boroughs. You can search images by name or certificate number, or browse by borough, year range, or certificate type.

$ Programme de Recherche en Démographie Historique

<www.prdh-igd.com>
Find your Quebec ancestors in this site from the Drouin Institute, featuring Catholic baptisms and burials as well as all Quebec marriages for 1621 to 1849. Viewing results starts at $19.99 for 100 hits.

PICTORE/ISTOCK

Henry VIII, c. 1537

DUNCAN1890/ISTOCK

USGenWeb

<www.usgenweb.org>

Established in 1996 as a free directory for text-based genealogy resources, this volunteer site has grown into a network of over 3,000 linked state and county websites. You'll find photos, maps, transcriptions, historical documents and helpful links, plus census and cemetery projects. Use the drop-down at top-right to visit the website of each state's affiliate project.

Western States Marriage Record Index

<abish.byui.edu/specialcollections/western-states/search.cfm>

BYU—Idaho has been indexing marriage records from 12 western states for nearly three decades. The result of those labors now totals more than 913,000 searchable records. Researchers with happy couples in Arizona, Idaho and Nevada should especially take note.

African American Genealogy Websites

Digital Library on American Slavery

<dlas.uncg.edu>

Search this site for tens of thousands of records relating to all 15 slave states and Washington, DC, plus some northern states. With an expanded collection of race and slavery petitions, the project now contains information about more than 150,000 individuals, including enslaved people, enslavers, and free people of color.

Enslaved

<www.enslaved.org>

This handsome site lets you reconstruct the lives of individuals who were enslaved, owned slaves, or participated in the slave trade. Search people, places and events and more. The Family Tree Magazine podcast featured an in-depth look of the site in February 2023 <www.familytreemagazine.com/podcasts/best-websites-enslaved-org>.

International African American Museum Center for Family History

<cfh.iaamuseum.org>

In preparation for the museum's opening, this site serves up videos, photos, lessons for all ages, and blog posts, plus searchable marriage records, obituaries, Bible records and more.

* SlaveVoyages

<www.slavevoyages.org>

Collections include 36,000 voyages, 90,000 names of Africans removed from slave ships and trading sites, and 60,000 names of people captured throughout the United States and transported to New Orleans.

Genetic Genealogy Websites

$ 23andMe

<www.23andme.com>

This popular health-testing website also offers ancestry testing ($99) and can automatically generate a family tree that visualizes genetic relatives who have opted in to the DNA Relatives feature.

DNAeXplained

<www.dna-explained.com>

Genetic genealogist Roberta Estes offers case studies of DNA ancestry answers along with testing tips and advice on which test is right for you.

We've hand-picked the sites whose offerings are fit for a king—and those virtually guaranteed to help resolve the royal pains in your ancestral research.

* DNA Painter

<www.dnapainter.com>
Demystify your test results with color-coded family trees, chromosome-mapping, tools to measure shared centimorgans, and relationship calculators. Most features are free, but a $55 annual upgrade gets you even more. Listen to the November 2022 episode of the Family Tree Podcast for more on the website <www.familytreemagazine.com/podcasts/build-your-family-tree-with-dna>.

$ Family Tree DNA

<www.familytreedna.com>
Boasting "the world's most comprehensive DNA matching database," this service is the only major company to offer autosomal DNA, Y-DNA *and* mtDNA testing. Kits range from $79 to $159, with more-expensive options for higher-level Y-DNA tests.

GEDmatch

<www.gedmatch.com>
Renowned for its role in cracking "cold cases" with genetic genealogy, GEDmatch can also help solve your ancestral mysteries. Upload your data from most popular testing services and join 1.4 million members who use the site's dozens of DNA tools. Users have also uploaded GEDCOMs that include 350 million people.

International Society of Genetic Genealogy Wiki

<www.isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page>
Don't know your mtDNA from your tRNA? Turn to the guides and 700-plus expert articles here. You'll also find links to genetic genealogy blogs, testing companies and DNA projects.

Your DNA Guide

<www.yourdnaguide.com>
Can DNA research be fun? This lively site answers in the affirmative, with friendly explanations from expert Diahan Southard. Basic info is free, but you can also buy Southard's book, join the DNA Academy, or sign up for one-on-one coaching. Southard also writes *Family Tree*'s DNA Q&A column; see page 71.

Cemetery Websites

BillionGraves

<www.billiongraves.com>
The world's largest resource for searchable GPS cemetery data invites you to help reach its 10-figure goal. Basic searching of cemetery data and photos is free, or upgrade to a "Plus" account for $59.99 per year.

Find a Grave

<www.findagrave.com>
Volunteers here have transcribed more than 225 million gravesites since 1995, covering the United States as well as many other countries. Most include photos and many have additional genealogical notes.

Interment.net

<www.interment.net>
With "only" 25 million-plus cemetery records, transcripts and burial registers, it's easy to overlook this long-time collection. But its less-familiar sources—records from fraternal groups, historical societies and governments—that supplement volunteer transcriptions make it a must-check.

Military Records Websites

American Battle Monuments Commission

<www.abmc.gov>
In addition to searching the overseas burial sites and memorials for more than 200,000 Americans who died in the World Wars, you can explore their stories through videos, photos and interactive experiences.

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System

<www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

Start your research for Civil War ancestors in this database of 6.2 million soldiers, Union and Confederate, from 44 states and territories. More than 4,000 linked unit histories record what they went through in America's deadliest conflict.

Daughters of the American Revolution

<www.dar.org>

The DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS) <www.dar.org/national-society/genealogy/using-genealogical-research-system-grs> includes free online databases containing information on Revolutionary patriot ancestors and descendants of those patriots, as well as an array of genealogical resources from the DAR Library.

$ Fold3

<www.fold3.com>

From the Revolutionary War to Vietnam, this Ancestry.com-owned subscription site ($79.95 per year) has everything military. Despite its US-flag-inspired name, you'll also find military records from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Mexican War Soldiers & Sailors Database

<www.nps.gov/paal/learn/historyculture/search-usmexwar.htm>

The smaller (but essential) sibling of the Park Service's Civil War database covers this earlier war, with a searchable database of more than 89,000 US and Mexican troops.

Nationwide Gravesite Locator

<gravelocator.cem.va.gov>

Not finding your veteran in the American Battle Monuments Commission database? Search closer to home in this U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs collection of burials in VA National Cemeteries, state veterans' cemeteries, or other US locations—updated daily.

For a comparison of the top newspaper websites, see <www.familytreemagazine.com/records/newspapers/historical-newspaper-websites-compared>.

Historical Newspaper Websites

$ The British Newspaper Archive

<www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

Search or browse more than 66 million pages from British publications from the 1700s onward. Subscriptions run about $107 annually or $16 per month.

Chronicling America

<chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

The Library of Congress has been relentlessly digitizing US newspapers at this free site, now totaling more than 20 million pages dating from 1770 to 1963. Don't miss the companion Newspaper Navigator <news-navigator.labs.loc.gov/search>, where you can search more than 1.5 million newspaper photos.

* Fulton History

<fultonsearch.org>

Started by Thomas Tryniski in 1999 as a project to digitize his local newspaper, Fulton History (named for his original site of old Fulton, N.Y., postcards) has grown to more than 47 million pages from more than 1,000 titles. New York remains best-represented, but Tryniski has titles from most states—and accessing them is free.

$ GenealogyBank

<www.genealogybank.com>

A subscription ($99.90 annually) unlocks more than 15,000 digitized newspaper titles—many not available elsewhere—plus 260 million obituaries, along with censuses, historical books and government documents.

* $ NewspaperArchive

<www.newspaperarchive.com>

In the newspaper-digitizing business since 1999, this subscription site ($139.99 per year) boasts nearly 10 billion searchable names in 16,000 titles and 280 million pages dating from 1607 to the present.

$ Newspapers.com

<www.newspapers.com>

This Ancestry.com subscription offering ($44.95 for six months) now offers 816 million pages from 25,500 titles, 1690 to today. To access them all, you'll need the Publishers Extra subscription option ($74.90 for six months), which adds titles—many of them, more-recent—licensed from publishers.

European Genealogy Websites

Arcanum Maps

<maps.arcanum.com/en>

Need a map of Budapest circa 1745? How about the Kingdom of Greece in 1885? You'll find those and many more historical maps of Europe here, including country, city and land (cadastral) maps. Online viewing is free, or you can purchase and download full-resolution scans.

$ Archion

<www.archion.de/en>

Find your German Protestant ancestors in more than 140,000 digitized church books, or find help in English-friendly forums. One month costs about $22.

$ ArkivDigital

<www.arkivdigital.net>

Search the most-complete collection of Swedish church books, military records and more—more than 94 million full-color scans—at this subscription site (about $38 per month). Features include a growing collection of searchable indexes, online family trees, and aerial photos.

Danish Demographic Database

<ddd.dda.dk/ddd_en.htm>

Explore your Danish ancestry in censuses spanning 1769 to 1930, along with some probate indexes. Don't miss the link to emigration records collected by the Copenhagen police.

Digitalarkivet

<www.digitalarkivet.no/en>

Digitized parish records and censuses are only the beginning at this extensive site from the National Archives of Norway. Searching for ancestors or specific record groups is simple, and English text is available throughout.

Filae

<en.filae.com>

Start by building a tree for your French ancestors, then dive into the largest online source of French archives—more than a billion civil registrations, censuses, early church records and other records, including those from 60 partner associations. To get the most from Filae, spring for premium access at a little over $15 per month.

Elizabeth II, 1953

CECIL BEATON/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

* Find Lost Russian and Ukrainian Family

<lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com>

This helpful, tip-filled blog delivers the latest on ways to research Russian and Ukrainian families, including records from the former Soviet Union.

Genealogy Indexer

<www.genealogyindexer.org>

Don't be fooled by the plain appearance of this collection of Central and East European records. Under the hood, you'll find 1.9 million pages of 3,500 historical directories, plus memorials to Jewish communities (yizkor books), military lists, community and personal histories and school resources.

75 Best State Websites of 2023

COMPILED BY RICK CRUME

Each year, we also publish a list of the best websites for each US state and territory. All the websites here are free, making them first-rate research destinations. See the full list (including short descriptions about each) at <www.familytreemagazine.com/best-state-genealogy-websites>.

ALABAMA

Alabama Department of Archives & History
<digital.archives.alabama.gov>

AlabamaMosaic
<www.alabamamosaic.org>

ALASKA

Alaska State Archives: Genealogy
<archives.alaska.gov/genealogy/genealogy.html>

AMERICAN SAMOA

American Samoa Genealogy
<americansamoagenealogy.atwebpages.com>

ARIZONA

Arizona Memory Project
<azmemory.azlibrary.gov>

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Digital Archives
<digitalheritage.arkansas.gov>

CALIFORNIA

Calisphere
<calisphere.org>

Online Archive of California
<www.oac.cdlib.org>

COLORADO

Denver Public Library Digital Collections
<digital.denverlibrary.org>

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Digital Archive
<collections.ctdigitalarchive.org>

CT State Library
<cslib.contentdm.oclc.org>

DELAWARE

Delaware Public Archives
<archives.delaware.gov>

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DigDC
<digdc.dclibrary.org>

FLORIDA

University of Florida Digital Collections
<ufdc.ufl.edu>

GEORGIA

Digital Library of Georgia
<dlg.usg.edu>

Georgia Archives
<www.georgiaarchives.org>

GUAM

Guam Genealogy
<guamgenealogy.atwebpages.com>

HAWAI'I

Hawai'i State Archives
<ags.hawaii.gov/archives>

IDAHO

Idaho State Historical Society
<history.idaho.gov/searchable-indexes>

ILLINOIS

Illinois Digital Archives
<www.idaillinois.org>

Illinois State Archives Databases
<www.ilsos.gov/departments/archives/databases/home.html>

INDIANA

Indiana State Library: Genealogy Collection
<www.in.gov/library/collections-and-services/genealogy>

IOWA

Iowa Digital Library
<digital.lib.uiowa.edu>

The Iowa Heritage Digital Collections
<www.iowaheritage.org>

KANSAS

Kansas Memory
<www.kansasmemory.org>

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Digital Library
<kdl.kyvl.org/digital>

LOUISIANA

Louisiana Digital Library
<www.louisianadigitallibrary.org>

MAINE

DigitalMaine Repository
<www.digitalmaine.com>

Maine Genealogy
<www.mainegenealogy.net>

Maine Memory Network
<www.mainememory.net>

MARYLAND

Digital Maryland
<www.digitalmaryland.org>

Maryland State Archives
<msa.maryland.gov>

MASSACHUSETTS

Digital Commonwealth
<www.digitalcommonwealth.org>

MICHIGAN

Michigan County Histories and Atlases
<quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty>

Michiganology
<michiganology.org>

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Digital Library
<www.mndigital.org>

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Digital Library
<www.msdiglib.org>

MISSOURI

Missouri Digital Heritage
<www.sos.mo.gov/mdh>

The State Historical Society of Missouri Digital Collections
<digital.shsmo.org>

MONTANA

Montana Historical Society
<mhs.mt.gov/research/onlinecollections>

NEBRASKA

History Nebraska
<history.nebraska.gov/collection_section/research-resources-databases>

NEVADA

Nevada Library Cooperative
<nvlibrarycoop.contentdm.oclc.org>

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Genealogy & History
<www.nh.searchroots.com>

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey State Archives
<www.nj.gov/state/archives>

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Digital Collections
<econtent.unm.edu>

NEW YORK

New York Heritage Digital Collections
<www.nyheritage.org>

The NYC Historical Vital Records Project
<a860-historicalvitalrecords.nyc.gov>

NORTH CAROLINA

Digital Library on American Slavery
<dlas.uncg.edu>

DigitalNC
<www.digitalnc.org>

North Carolina Digital Collections
<digital.ncdcr.gov>

University of North Carolina: The Southern Historical Collection
<dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/archivalhome/collection/00ddd>

NORTH DAKOTA

Digital Horizons
<digitalhorizonsonline.org>

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Northern Mariana Islands Genealogy
<northernmarianaislandsgenealogy.atwebpages.com>

OHIO

Ohio Memory
<www.ohiomemory.org>

OKLAHOMA

Digital Prairie
<www.digitalprairieok.net>

The Gateway to Oklahoma History
<gateway.okhistory.org>

OREGON

Oregon Digital
<www.oregondigital.org>

Oregon Historical Society Digital Collections
<digitalcollections.ohs.org>

PENNSYLVANIA

State Library of Pennsylvania
<www.statelibrary.pa.gov/generalpublic/collections>

PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico en Breve
<geneal.preb.com>

RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries
<www.rihistoriccemeteries.org>

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Department of Archives and History
<www.archivesindex.sc.gov>

The South Carolina Digital Library
<www.scmemory.org>

SOUTH DAKOTA

Digital Library of South Dakota
<explore.digitalsd.org>

TENNESSEE

Tennessee Virtual Archive
<teva.contentdm.oclc.org>

TEXAS

The Portal to Texas History
<texashistory.unt.edu>

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Caribbean Genealogy Library
<cgl.vi>

UTAH

Utah State Archives Name Indexes
<archives.utah.gov/research/indexes>

Utah State Cemeteries and Burials Database
<history.utah.gov/cemeteries>

VERMONT

Vermont History
<www.vermonthistory.org/digital-resources>

VIRGINIA

Library of Virginia
<lva.virginia.gov>

WASHINGTON

Washington Rural Heritage
<www.washingtonruralheritage.org>

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Archives and History
<www.wvculture.org/history/archivesindex.aspx>

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Historical Society
<www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy>

WYOMING

Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection
<www.wyomingnewspapers.org>

Elizabeth I, 1600

DUNCAN1890 ISTOCK

Geneanet

<en.geneanet.org>

The other heavyweight in French research, Geneanet emphasizes user-submitted trees. You can also explore genealogical society indexes and resource guides; premium members (from $12.50 every three months) get advanced search tools and access to Genealogy Library records.

Geneteka

<www.geneteka.genealodzy.pl>

Click your ancestors' province on the map of Poland to start searching more than 47 million names in registers from more than 4,500 parishes.

* GenTeam

<www.genteam.at/index.php?lang=en>

Free registration unlocks more than 21 million documents, focused on Austria. The brainchild of professional genealogy researcher Felix Gundacker, GenTeam contains resources from the leading online gazetteer of Austrian lands to indexes of church records.

Hungaricana

<www.hungaricana.hu/en>

Clues to your Hungarian ancestors await in digitized publications, old maps, and census pages. While you're here, explore the folk music collection and the "Budapest Time Machine."

JewishGen

<www.jewishgen.org>

Though not limited to Europe, this essential site for Jewish genealogy is particularly strong there, with databases of East European towns, Jewish surnames, Holocaust victims, and families. Those who have Ukrainian ancestors can learn about the latest efforts to preserve records there against wartime destruction, with 100,000 records uploaded monthly.

Portale Antenati

<antenati.cultura.gov.it/?lang=en>

Italian for "The Ancestors Portal," this site offers name or location searches of more than 132 million images and 1.6 million registries from 83 Italian archives.

Routes to Roots Foundation

<www.rtrfoundation.org>

Collections of archives, surnames, digitized images and Holocaust victims cover Jewish and civil records in Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania and Moldova. Maps, articles and expert insights will help you.

Wie Was Wie

<www.wiewaswie.nl/en>

Initially a database destination for Dutch civil registrations, this site has grown to cover more than 230 million individuals' records, adding population records, church books and more.

Genealogy Websites for Asia and the Pacific

CoraWeb

<www.coraweb.com.au>

Home to Cora Num's ever-growing list of Australian and related genealogy links since 1997, this site covers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as well as New Zealand, India and Sri Lanka.

*** Filipino Genealogy Project**

<www.filipinogenealogy.com>

Start your sometimes-challenging quest for Filipino ancestors with this friendly blog that covers everything from ethnic surnames to the Philippines' president's family tree.

Trove

<trove.nla.gov.au>

This collaboration between the National Library of Australia and hundreds of partner organizations includes digitized newspapers, maps, photos, books, diaries and letters.

Geography and Historical Map Websites

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries

<digital.newberry.org/ahcb>

Follow your ancestors' county records across shifting boundary lines with this essential tool from Chicago's Newberry Library.

Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records

<www.glorecords.blm.gov>

The ultimate resource for land-records research offers images of more than 5 million federal land title records, survey plats and field notes, land status records, and control document index records. Check out our guide in the March/April 2023 issue <www.familytreemagazine.com/records/land/general-land-office-tutorial>.

David Rumsey Map Collection

<www.davidrumsey.com>

A collaboration with Machines Reading Maps will make nearly half of this site's 121,000 online historical maps text-searchable.

Gazetteer of British Place Names

<gazetteer.org.uk>

Find your British ancestors' places with this guide to more than 280,000 locales. Each entry includes a place's historic county and main administrative areas, plus notes about changing boundaries and postal codes.

> **For clickable links, read the online version of this list <www.familytreemagazine.com/best-genealogy-websites>.**

Historic Map Works

<www.historicmapworks.com>

Search more than 1.6 million historic maps and images (including old property maps and directories), some matchable with modern Google maps. You can order prints, and paid subscribers can upgrade their viewing tools.

*** $ HistoryGeo**

<www.historygeo.com>

Subscribers ($20 for three months) can search the 12.3 million property owners across 30 states in the First Landowners Project, or explore thousands of antique maps.

Meyers Gazetteer

<www.meyersgaz.org>

Searching places in the German Empire (1871 to 1918) couldn't be simpler—no need to use diacritical marks, but try as many asterisk wildcards as you want.

US Geological Survey

<www.usgs.gov/products/maps/all-maps>

One click lets you explore all USGS maps, new and old. Other links here take you to the agency's Geographic Names Information System and the National Map.

Best Family Tree and Sharing Websites

Geni

<www.geni.com>

The World Family Tree connects more than 177 million people worldwide, past and present. Collaborate on family research, stay in touch with family members, and be reminded of family birthdays and anniversaries.

TribalPages

<www.tribalpages.com>

This site emphasizes tree-building, complete with photos and charts. Only invited family members can view or edit your tree. Basic trees with up to 50 images are free, or upgrade for an annual fee of $36 or $48.

WeRelate

<www.werelate.org>

Boasting a "shared approach" to genealogy, this site from the Foundation for On-Line Genealogy aims to "build a unified family tree containing the best information from all contributors." Even if you don't pitch in, you can still search its more than 3 million individual entries.

WikiTree

<www.wikitree.com>
This other ambitious effort to build a "single family tree" for humanity encompasses nearly 34 million profiles, more than 11 million that have DNA test connections. It's free to add your own tree or search what's already there. We interviewed WikiTree's founder and president in the December 2022 episode of the Family Tree Podcast <www.familytreemagazine.com/podcasts/how-witness-records-can-guide-your-genealogy-research>.

Genealogy Tech Tools

AncientFaces

<www.ancientfaces.com>
With a mission of "everyone deserves to be remembered," this site has been sharing family photos since 2000. Among popular features are school photos, plus mystery photos seeking identification and their owners. Listen to our interview with the site's co-founder at <www.familytreemagazine.com/podcasts/best-websites-ancientfaces>.

* ArchiveGrid

<researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid>
This free online catalog covers 7 million archival materials from more than 1,400 archives around the world. Among its listings are diaries, travel narratives, local censuses, photographs, maps, and all sorts of other genealogically rich records.

* Artifcts

<www.artifcts.com>
Artifcts is where "stuff and stories meet, because otherwise stuff is just stuff." Upload photos of your family heirlooms along with the stories behind them. Getting started is free; unlimited uploads are $89 per year.

Cyndi's List

<www.cyndislist.com>
If you can't find a helpful link among the 317,000 links in 229 categories that Cyndi Ingle has been cataloging for more than 25 years, you might really have hit a brick wall. Read our interview with Cyndi on page 5.

DeadFred

<www.deadfred.com>
More than 3,200 people have found ancestral images in this genealogy photo archive, home to 154,000 entries representing 22,000 surnames. We interviewed the founder of DeadFred in the October 2022 episode of the Family Tree Podcast <www.familytreemagazine.com/podcasts/old-world-town-of-origin>.

Internet Archive

<www.archive.org>
That gone-but-not-forgotten genealogy site still lives among the more than 800 billion pages archived in the "Wayback Machine." Other treasures here include media of all types, old books and family and local histories. See our guide in the November/December 2022 issue <www.familytreemagazine.com/websites/internet-archive-genealogy>.

One-Step Webpages by Stephen P. Morse

<www.stevemorse.org>
Steve Morse's web wizardry lets you do a deep dive into resources such as censuses, vital records, and passenger lists with a single click. The site is also worth a visit for help with old calendars, foreign alphabets, old maps and more.

Reclaim the Records

<www.reclaimtherecords.org>
"We want our records back!" this advocacy group proclaims, and to date it's secured millions of vital and other records blocked by government rules. Their site links to newly freed record collections, and shares updates about ongoing records requests and lawsuits.

$ RootsPoint

<www.rootspoint.com>
Just $1.99 buys you a one-week pass to this wide-ranging digitization site. (You can get a whole year for $9.99.) Collections include marriage, military, England and Wales, and immigration records, plus 9,300 digitized books such as family and local histories.

WorldCat

<www.worldcat.org>

Search 405 million book titles, 6 million maps, 30 million theses and dissertations, and more, then find the closest library for access among the thousands of repositories worldwide that are cataloged here.

Genealogy News Websites and Blogs

* The Family Curator

<www.thefamilycurator.com>

If you're the family member who's been stuck with all "the stuff," let Denise Levenick show you how to adapt professional archival techniques to preserve your family keepsakes. Levenick also writes the Family History Home column for *Family Tree* (see page 66).

$ Genealogical.com

<www.genealogical.com>

Though not a "news" website in the conventional sense, this longtime genealogy book publisher shares plenty of how-to advice. A subscription ($135 per year) buys you access to 800 titles in ebook form, ranging from classics in the field to transcriptions of old records not available elsewhere. You can also shop for individual titles (both print and ebook).

Genealogy Guys

<www.genealogyguys.com>

With more than 400 podcast episodes and counting, experts George G. Morgan and Drew Smith will keep you up to date on family-history happenings. Their site also features blog posts, courses and webinars.

Genealogy Gems

<www.lisalouisecooke.com>

Join *Family Tree Magazine* contributor Lisa Louise Cooke for on-demand videos and podcasts, weekly YouTube shows, and how-to guides. (See her "Lisa's Picks" column on page 8.)

The Legal Genealogist

<www.legalgenealogist.com>

Who knew there were so many legal issues in genealogy? Judy G. Russell, J.D., regularly shares her thoughts on DNA, record access, cemeteries, copyright and more.

George III, 1768

ALLAN RAMSAY/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

* The Photo Detective

<www.maureentaylor.com>

Longtime *Family Tree Magazine* old-photo expert Maureen A. Taylor (see page 59) shares mysteries, tips and discoveries in blog posts and podcasts. Topics range from cyanotypes to ChatGPT image-generation.

RootsTech

<www.rootstech.org>

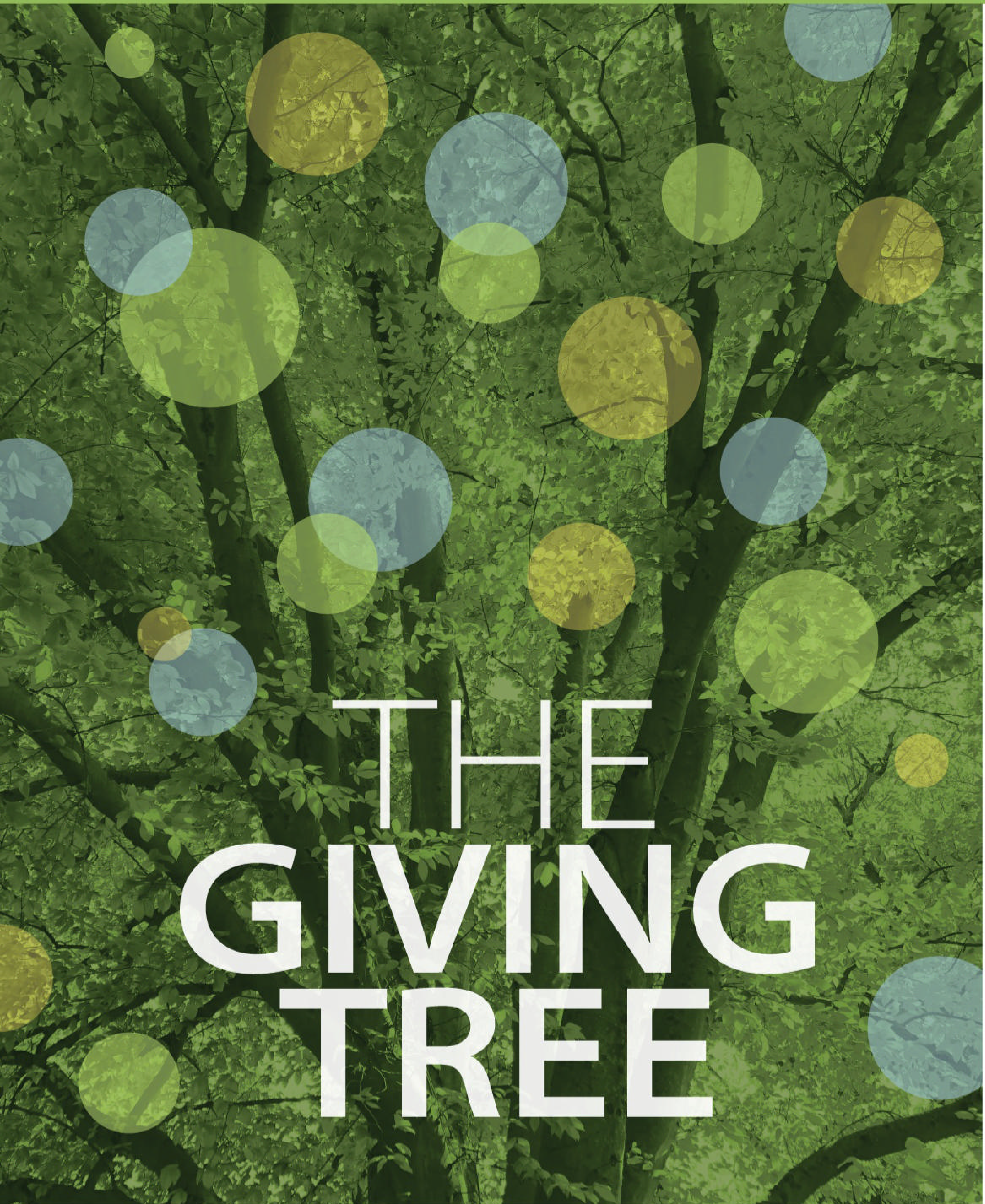
This top genealogy tech conference has a massive archive of 2,200 free presentations from past conferences, including this year's event in Salt Lake City.

* $ Virtual Genealogical Association

<www.virtualgenealogy.org>

If you don't have a local society (or just can't get enough genealogy!), you might love this society. Its member offerings ($20 annually) include monthly presentations from nationally known speakers as well as Zoom social events like virtual hangouts and a book club. ●

Family Tree Magazine founding editor **David A. Fryxell** is the author of *The Family Tree Scandinavian Genealogy Guide* (Family Tree Books) and *MicroHistory* (Continental Divide Publishing).



THE GIVING TREE

Tap into the resources of the massive FamilySearch Family Tree with these suggestions.

by SUNNY JANE MORTON

When's the last time you explored the world's biggest family tree? Have you checked to see what others know about your relatives? Reconnected old photos of your grandparents' neighbors with their descendants? Shared family recipes for others to find in the future?

These are just some of the creative ways people are harnessing the power of the global Family Tree at the free genealogy website Family Search <www.familysearch.org>. With a community-tree model, all users contribute to the same public, common profiles for shared ancestors, rather than building individual trees as you do at sites such as Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com> and MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com>.

FamilySearch isn't the only site to offer a unified tree. You can also find this model at Geni <www.geni.com>, WikiTree <www.wikitree.com> and WeRelate <www.werelate.org>. But with 1.5 billion ancestor profiles, the FamilySearch Tree is a giant sequoia compared to these others (which have 175 million, 34 million, and 3 million ancestral profiles, respectively).

Accuracy is always a concern in collaborative family trees. Are others connecting rogue relatives to your great-grandparents, or mismatching people who have the same name? It happens. But sources are being added four times as quickly as new names (44 million new sources and 12 million names each month). So while some branches may grow the wrong direction—and you should verify everything you find there (see the sidebar on page 31)—the Tree is, overall, becoming more accurate.

All that data (and the collective wisdom of millions of users) makes the FamilySearch Tree a useful resource in its own right. Here, we'll share ideas and how-to's for using the Tree in other ways, besides documenting your own family. Whether you just want to harvest any good fruit from its branches or help cultivate its growth, there's plenty you can do with those 1.5 billion names.

A quick note about privacy: By default, FamilySearch Tree profiles for those still living are restricted. You can only search for people who are listed as deceased.

1 FIND YOUR RELATIVES—AND THEIR FRIENDS OR NEIGHBORS

"Whenever I start researching someone new—related or not—the FamilySearch Tree is my first stop," says Cheryl McClellan of Chesterland, Ohio. "What have others already learned about them? What sources are attached?" You can do the same with a free FamilySearch login; create one at <www.familysearch.org>, if needed.

Once you're logged in, you can start looking for your deceased relatives (or the minister who married them, or the guy who signed their will, and so on). Go to the Search dropdown menu, then Family Tree. Enter a person's name, a place they lived, and birth or death year. (You can also

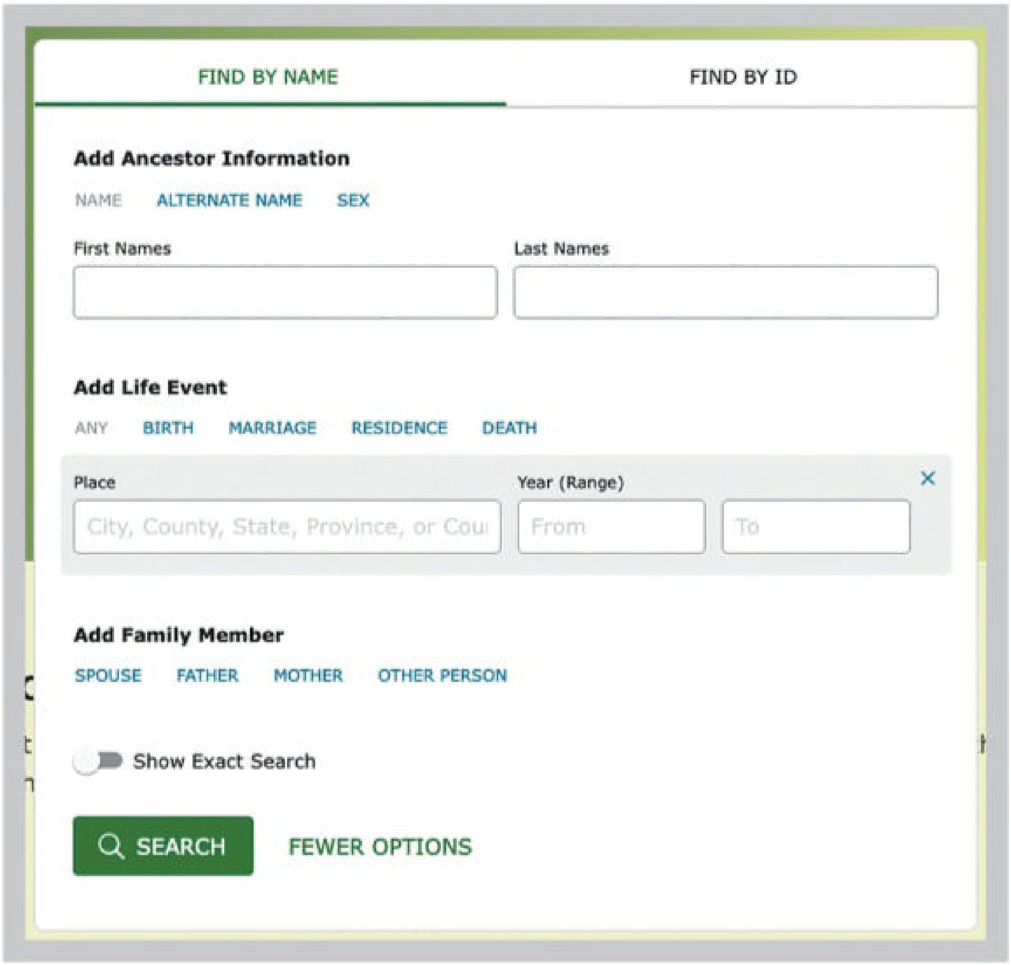
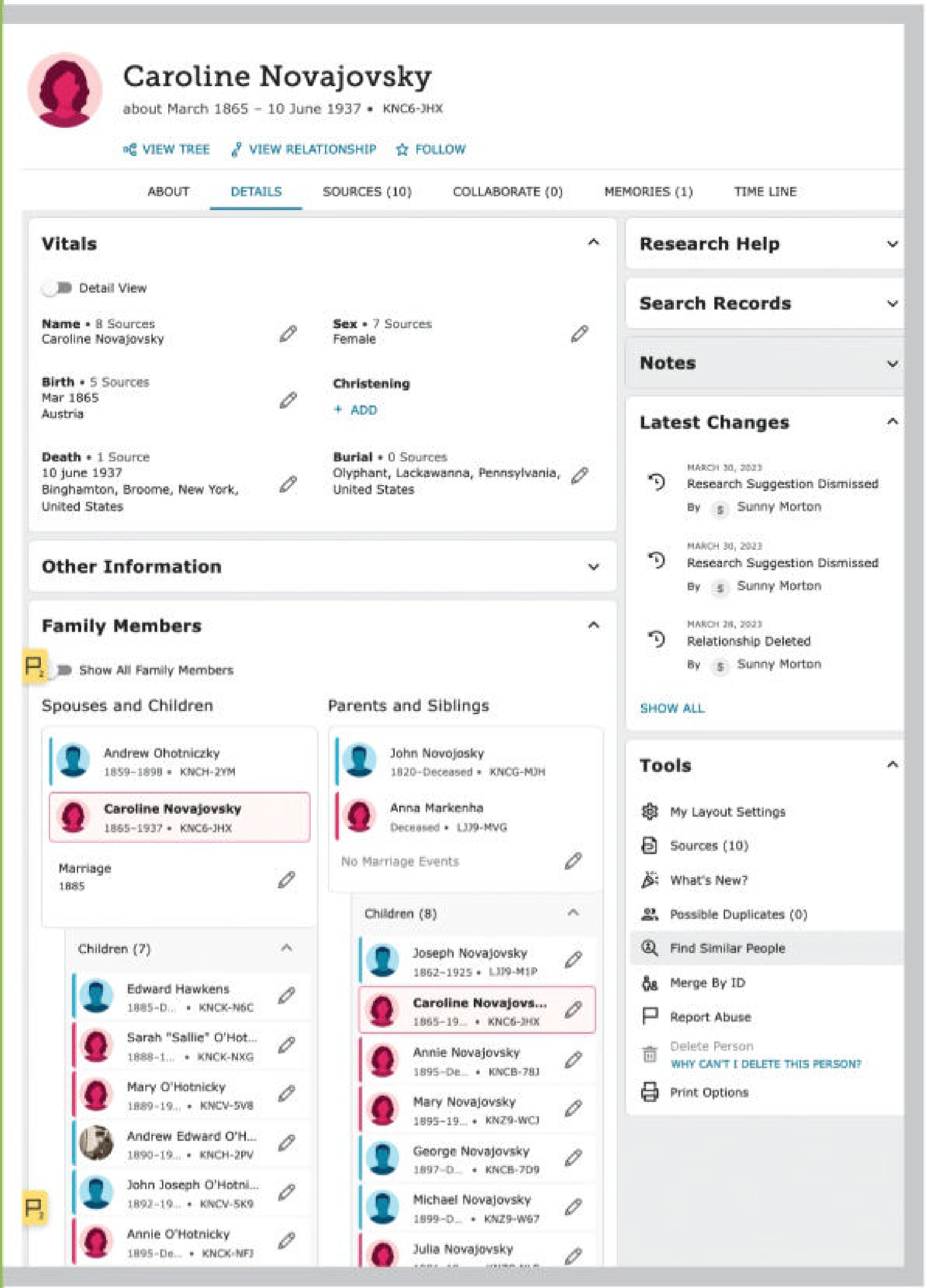


Image A: The Tree search form at FamilySearch

JULIE BARNETT



Caroline Novajovsky
about March 1865 – 10 June 1937 • KNC6-JHX

Vitals

Name • 8 Sources
Caroline Novajovsky

Sex • 7 Sources
Female

Birth • 5 Sources
Mar 1865
Austria

Christening

Death • 1 Source
10 june 1937
Binghamton, Broome, New York, United States

Burial • 0 Sources
Olyphant, Lackawanna, Pennsylvania, United States

Other Information

Family Members

Spouses and Children

Andrew Ohotniczky
1859–1898 • KNCH-2YM

Caroline Novajovsky
1865–1937 • KNC6-JHX

Marriage
1885

Children (7)

Edward Hawkens
1885-D... • KNCK-N6C

Sarah "Sallie" O'Hot...
1888-1... • KNCK-NXG

Mary O'Hotnicky
1889-19... • KNCV-5V8

Andrew Edward O'H...
1890-19... • KNCH-2PV

John Joseph O'Hotni...
1892-19... • KNCV-5K9

Annie O'Hotnicky
1895-De... • KNCK-NFJ

Parents and Siblings

John Novojosky
1820–Deceased • KNCG-MJH

Anna Markenha
Deceased • LJJ9-MVG

No Marriage Events

Children (8)

Joseph Novajovsky
1862–1925 • LJJ9-M1P

Caroline Novajovs...
1865–19... • KNC6-JHX

Annie Novajovsky
1895-De... • KNCB-78J

Mary Novajovsky
1895–19... • KNZ9-WCJ

George Novajovsky
1897-D... • KNCB-7D9

Michael Novajovsky
1899-D... • KNZ9-W67

Julia Novajovsky

Research Help

Search Records

Notes

Latest Changes

MARCH 30, 2023
Research Suggestion Dismissed
By S Sunny Morton

MARCH 30, 2023
Research Suggestion Dismissed
By S Sunny Morton

MARCH 28, 2023
Relationship Deleted
By S Sunny Morton

Tools

Image B: A sample FamilySearch Tree profile

search by the unique Ancestor ID, but—in most cases—you'll first need to find the person in the Tree to get that information.) Run that search—see image A for the form—or hit More Options to enter additional details.

For best results, search for someone who lived two to four generations ago, as they are more likely to have been added to the Tree. Note that the search automatically filters out living people, whose profiles are confidential.

Double-click on a search result to view that person's page, which will have a unique ID number (example: K8QM-TNZ) and shareable URL. Explore all the tabs to find genealogical data, sources, notes, documents, memories and photos attached to that person. Click in the Family Members section (if showing) to learn about parents and any siblings, spouse(s) or children. See image B for a sample profile.

Use all of that data to determine whether this profile is for your person of interest. If so, you can click Follow at the top to be notified about future changes.

Don't search just for direct-line ancestors. You can also use the Family Tree to study your collateral relatives (cousins, aunts, uncles, etc.) as well as others who were associated with your ancestor.

For example, maybe you want to learn about a godparent or witness listed in a church record, or determine how a pallbearer knew your deceased ancestor. Take note of neighbors in censuses and city directories, then search the Tree for them to learn about how their lives intersected (and grew apart) from your ancestor's.

2

SHARE FAMILY MEMORIES

Meri Rees of Miami uses the Tree to share favorite family memories. "I posted a generational recipe, and my granddaughter found it and made it," she says. "I love to think that someday another generation will link to us through this recipe." Her post (image C) got its own dedicated landing page <www.familysearch.org/photos/stories/36818269> and is linked to the relevant ancestors.

It's easy to share family photos, documents, memories, stories or heirlooms on a deceased relative's FamilySearch person page. And (as with the rest of the Tree) you can contribute materials whether or not you created the person page.

First, search for the deceased relative's person page. If you don't find one, you'll need to create one. You have two options:

1. Find the person page of one of their first-degree relatives. Under the Family Members section, click the option to Add Spouse, Add Child or Add Parent.

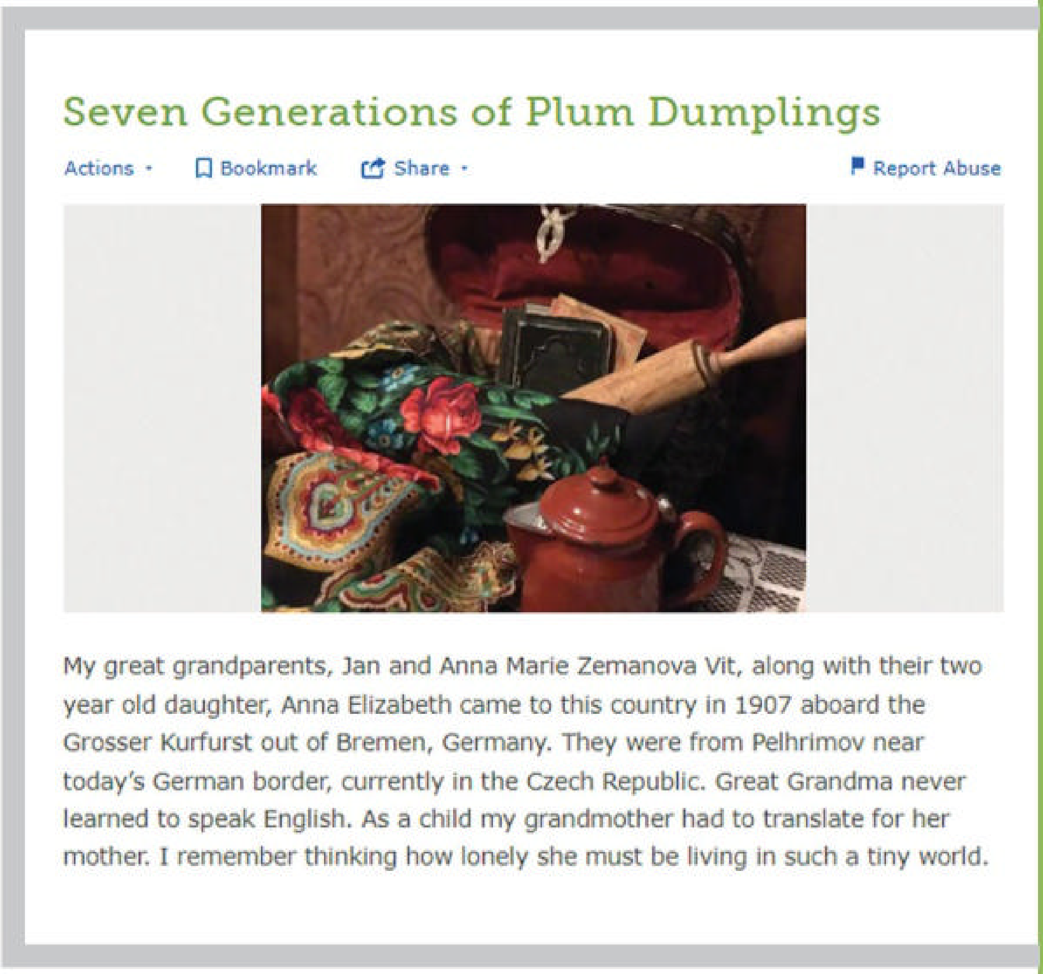
For more FamilySearch Tree tips, see our guide to adding ancestors to the site <www.familytreemagazine.com/websites/familysearch/start-your-familysearch-family-tree>.

2. Click Family Tree > Tree > Recents > Add Unconnected Person If you don't find a first-degree relative already on the Tree.

Note: You can add *living* people to the Tree and attach documents and other media to their pages. However, you're the only one who will be able to see it. It won't become public until you add a death date to the person's profile. (At RootsTech 2023, FamilySearch indicated it would add the ability to share profiles of living people with select others, but it hasn't been implemented as of this writing.)

On the person page, go to Memories > Add Memories. You may record audio, type a story, or upload a PDF, image or sound file (up to 15MB) from your device, your FamilySearch Gallery, or Google Photos. Next, take a few minutes to label and tag your Memory (sample, image D):

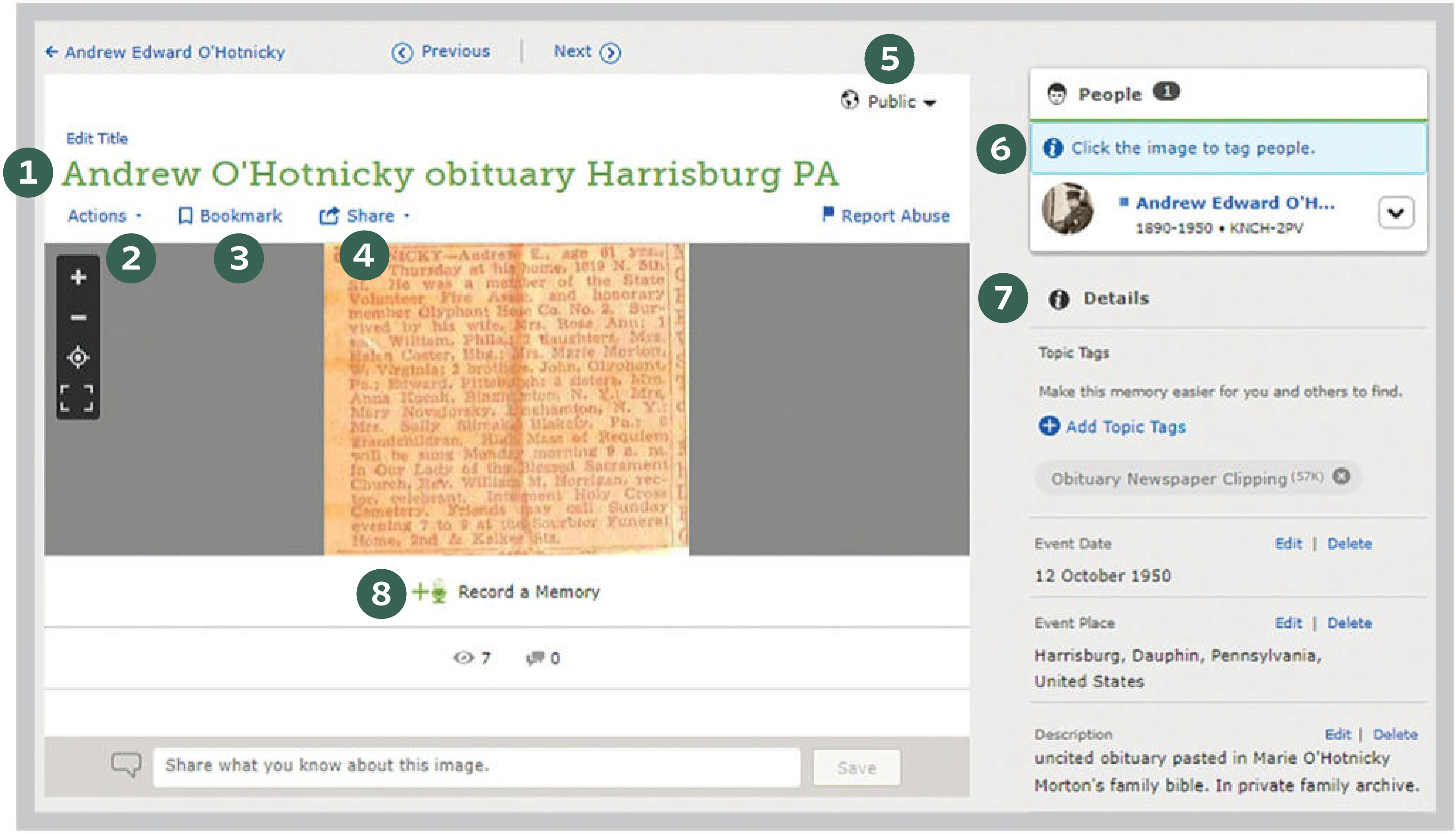
1. Add a descriptive title.
2. Use the drop-down menu to rotate or re-download images, as needed.
3. Bookmark your favorites for faster access.
4. Share on social media.



Seven Generations of Plum Dumplings

My great grandparents, Jan and Anna Marie Zemanova Vit, along with their two year old daughter, Anna Elizabeth came to this country in 1907 aboard the Grosser Kurfurst out of Bremen, Germany. They were from Pelhrimov near today's German border, currently in the Czech Republic. Great Grandma never learned to speak English. As a child my grandmother had to translate for her mother. I remember thinking how lonely she must be living in such a tiny world.

Image C: A Memory post shared on the FamilySearch Tree



Andrew O'Hotnicky obituary Harrisburg PA

Click the image to tag people.

Andrew Edward O'H...
1890-1950 • KNCH-2PV

Details

Topic Tags

Make this memory easier for you and others to find.

Add Topic Tags

Obituary Newspaper Clipping (57K)

Event Date — Edit | Delete
12 October 1950

Event Place — Edit | Delete
Harrisburg, Dauphin, Pennsylvania, United States

Description — Edit | Delete
uncited obituary pasted in Marie O'Hotnicky Morton's family bible. In private family archive.

Share what you know about this image.

Image D: The edit screen for a FamilySearch Memory

5. Mark as Private (viewable by only you) or Public (viewable by anyone).
6. Tag other person pages to attach to other relatives on FamilySearch.
7. Add other details and topic tags, if you like.
8. Record an audio file with your memories or (in the comment area below) add a caption.

Note that the default privacy setting for a Memory is Public. Consider the privacy of living people when deciding what items and stories to upload and make public.

3 COLLABORATE WITH FELLOW DESCENDANTS

Fellow FamilySearch user Jillene added a note to a 1955 photo attached to my great-grandaunt Janie McClelland: "I'm pretty sure that the lady in the striped dress is mislabeled," she wrote. "She is not Addie Elizabeth, but Anna Elmira. She is my grandmother." Thanks for that, Jillene!

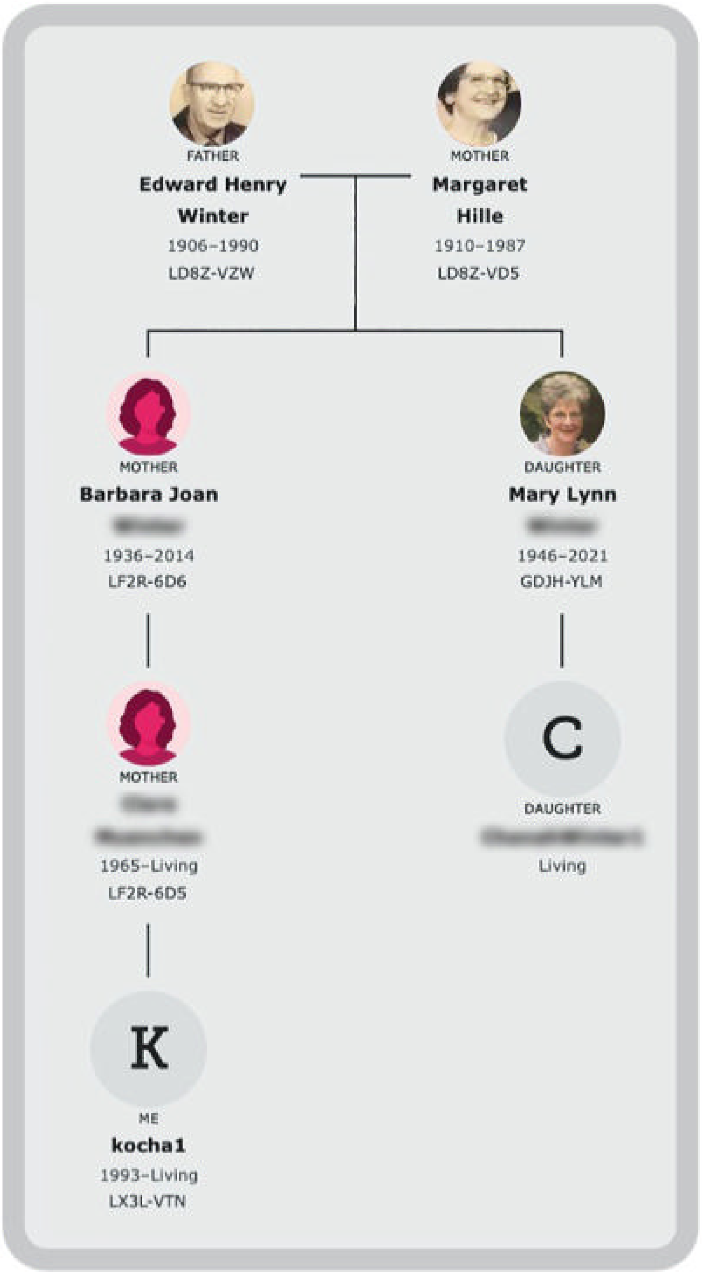


Image E: Through the FamilySearch Tree, you can view how you're related to other users

When you add to, edit, or correct information on relatives' pages like this, you join millions of collaborators.

But you can also reach out directly to other FamilySearch users. "I found someone willing to do DNA testing," says Patti Hobbs of Santa Clara, Calif. The person was "a contributor to our common ancestor's information." You may also want to find cousins who are researching your shared roots, or descendants who still live in your ancestral hometown.

On an ancestor's person page, look for comments or changes made under the Sources, Collaborate and Memories tabs. (Usernames will appear in small letters next to a circle icon showing their profile picture or initial.) Or see a list of changes (and users) under Details > Latest Changes > Show All.

Click on a username to see that person's profile information and contact options. You'll also see any tree relationship found, as long as you've both opted to share that information. (More on that later and in image E.) Click on the relationship to see the exact path. Use the Message box to contact them through FamilySearch; some users also share an email address.

Find more relatives on FamilySearch through "Relatives at RootsTech" <www.rootstech.org>. Each year, attendees (even those attending the free virtual event) can opt in to being connected to relatives. Click to view your tree relationships. As in other Tree tools, information will not show for living people.

4 CONNECT RECORDS TO NON-RELATIVES

You don't *have* to be related to someone to contribute to their FamilySearch page. That allows you to share otherwise-irrelevant materials from your collection with others.

"I often attach documents and information about non-relatives that I find," says Tiffany Christler Wacaser of Putnam Valley, N.Y. "For example, in my research on New York colonial Palatines, I found several letters from a minister. When I looked up his profile on FamilySearch, there was nothing about his work. I added the letters and sources so relatives could read them."

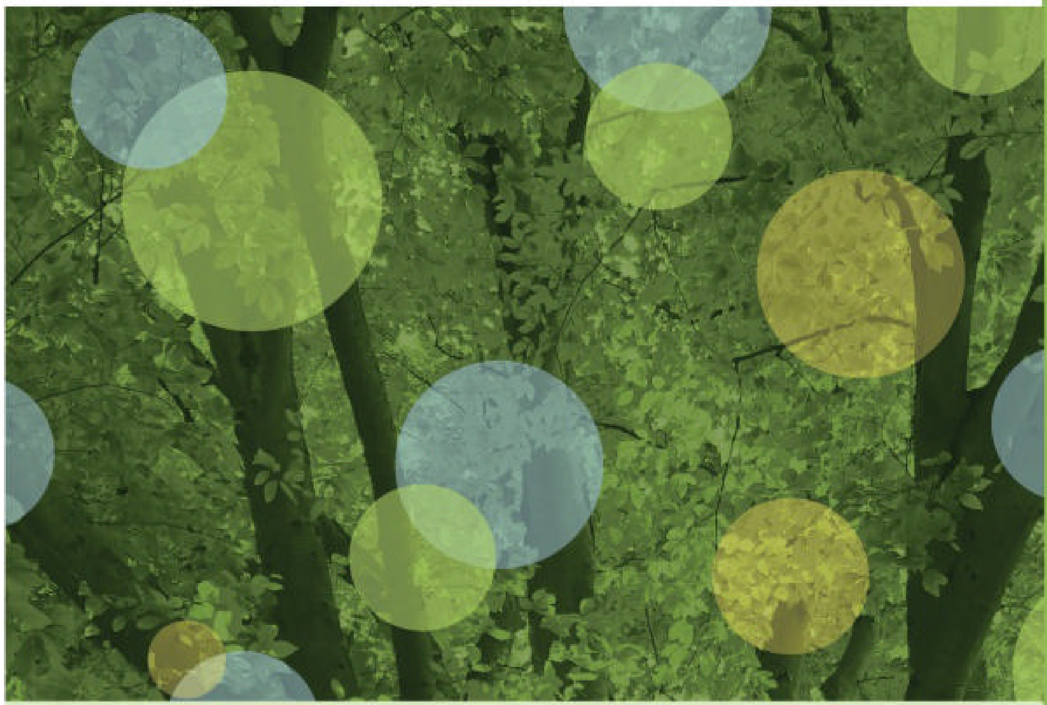
Others share similar stories of using the Tree to reconnect "orphaned" heirlooms, documents and photos with descendants:

- Anna Styles of Lakewood, Ohio, looks for old photos at flea markets with names on the back: "I take pictures of front and back with my phone. I then research the family and attach [the digital images] to FamilySearch." I've done something similar with old photos, adding in the Collaborate section an offer to send the original to the first descendant who requests it.
- Joyce Chancellor of Gilbert, Ariz., was given a box of records for a woman who passed away in the 1980s. "She didn't have any living family. I found people mentioned in her paper tree on FamilySearch, then attached the records I had for them," she says.
- Terry Blair of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, has researched thousands of local burials in records that aren't easily available to others: "I decided to begin putting not-yet-added information on the Tree for the benefit of others and so it will not be lost. As long as the site survives, the information will also survive."

You'll be most successful in these efforts when you have enough information about a person to identify them in existing person pages, or to create new pages that have enough identifying information to be recognizable to others.

Let's say you find antique photos marked with names, dates, relationships or location clues. (Learn more about identifying old photos at <www.familytreemagazine.com/old-photographs-and-ancestors.>) Use these clues to search for person pages or to create a new one. Include a note explaining why you're connecting the item to that person page.

The back of a flea market photo I found has a photographer's mark for FW Toogood, Hartford, Mich., and a handwritten label: "Russell Crandall (Bertha's son)." Additional research showed that Toogood was in business from 1900 to 1919. The FamilySearch Tree has a page for Charles Russell Crandall, with a 1900 census record identifying him as "Russell C Crandall," age 5, listed just below his mother, Bertha. I added the photo to the Memories section, along with a note detailing where I'd found the photo and why I believed it to be this person.



7 STEPS
to Fact-Checking Online Trees

Online family trees are notorious for having information of dubious accuracy, and collaborative trees are certainly no exception. Sort the facts from the fiction using this advice, written by Andrew Koch in the January/February 2022 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*:

1. **Confirm the person is a reasonable match:** Look for discrepancies in names, ages or birthdates, and places.
2. **Resist auto-adding information:** Consider how the details line up with what you already know about that ancestor.
3. **Rule out impossibilities:** Disregard supposed facts that don't make sense, like children being born before parents or ancestors living in two places at the same time.
4. **Look for citations:** Did the other user cite their sources at all? Prioritize quality over quantity; look for original records, then transcriptions, *then* indexes, for example.
5. **Review linked sources:** If records are attached, click into them yourself to review if information was transcribed onto the tree profile correctly.
6. **Make a decision:** Only attach details that you're able to verify; disregard those that you can't.
7. **Submit edits:** In FamilySearch, you can make factual corrections yourself. Add a reason statement to justify your change to others.

Read the full article at <www.familytreemagazine.com/strategies/fact-check-family-trees>.

5 SEE HOW YOU'RE RELATED TO OTHERS

As a Tree user, you can activate tools that show how you're related to both the living and the dead. But you need to 1) opt in to the process and b) connect yourself to the Tree.

First, prepare your user profile to "meet" others. Click your profile icon in the top right corner, then click Settings. Under Profile, edit your name and contact ID for how you'd like others to see you. Consider adding a picture.

Under Notifications, turn on the option to receive messages; enable text alerts if you like. Under Permissions, turn on your profile information. Then, enable relationship-viewing so you and other users can see how you're related.

Next, add yourself to the Tree. Remember, you're not creating a stand-alone family tree: You're linking yourself to new or existing profiles of deceased relatives who are themselves linked to other relatives. Through this process, you're creating connections to people throughout the world.

Here's how:

1. Log in to your FamilySearch account.
2. Under Family Tree, select Tree. You'll be prompted step by step to enter information about yourself and your family. (You can also upload a GEDCOM file of your own family tree; watch a tutorial at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsMlwqt2KgA>.)
3. When you add a living relative, their pages remain accessible only to you. Adding a death date will make their page public.
4. When you add a deceased relative, FamilySearch will suggest any existing person pages that may match. If an existing page matches your relative, add it. All linked data (including any other relatives attached to that page) will populate your Tree view.
5. If you don't find a matching person page, FamilySearch will create one. (It's possible you'll later discover another matching person page, at which point you can merge those pages.)
6. Continue to enter your relatives on various branches of your tree until you link to existing ancestral pages that, hopefully, are themselves connected to others on the Tree. The more connection points you create on more family branches, the more possibilities for discovering relationships to others. Most connections to other users happen eight to 12 (or more) generations back.

Though FamilySearch is used by people around the world, North America and Western Europe are better documented than other global regions. Your experience in finding existing Tree pages for your relatives may differ from that of others, especially if you're doing research in communities that are under-represented in the Tree.

Once you're connected, you can start exploring family relationships.

- Under Activities > Famous Relatives, click on profiles of celebrities to see if a tree relationship is found. Just remember to verify any tree connections you want to brag about!
- On any deceased person's page, click the View Relationship icon. If it doesn't appear, no relationship has been found.
- When clicking on a user's profile, look for a tree relationship.

• • •

With these new ideas for using FamilySearch's Tree, you may start looking at your research a little differently. Now you know where to share those research discoveries you've never bothered to digitize, or that packet of letters you found at an estate sale. You also have another way to look for relatives—and an easy-to-use place to share favorite memories and mementoes for future generations.

Start exploring the Tree: Out of 1.5 billion people, odds are good that some of them are yours. ●

For tips on using FamilySearch's various tools, read <www.familytreemagazine.com/websites/familysearch/familysearch-guide>.

Contributing Editor **Sunny Jane Morton** has made more than 4,500 changes to the FamilySearch Tree, which are logged under Family Tree > My Contributions.

RESEARCH GUIDE

MONTANA

by ANDREW KOCH

FAMILY, HISTORY AND PROGRESS COLLIDE in the popular TV series “Yellowstone” and its various spinoffs, much of them set and filmed in Montana. If your roots in the state go as deep as the Dutton family’s, read on for how you can find your own genealogical gold in “The Treasure State.”

BIG SKY, BIG HISTORY

Montana was first home to a number of indigenous groups, including the: Assiniboine/Nakoda, Blackfeet, Cree, Crow, Northern Cheyenne, and Salish. Today, the state has 12 federally recognized tribes, as well as seven reservations within its present borders.

Montana’s distance from other settlements (as well as its harsh western terrain) resulted in relatively late exploration by Europeans. The Lewis and Clark Expedition passed through modern Montana in 1805 as part of its survey of the newly purchased Louisiana Territory. Its members were the first non-indigenous people known to have visited the area, and their journals provide insight into their experiences and encounters with Native peoples.

Fur traders followed, but the industry dwindled a few decades later. In 1841, Roman Catholic missionaries established Saint Mary’s, recognized as the first permanent white settlement in the state.

The Continental Divide, which runs through Montana, helped define the land’s territorial history. Land west of the Continental Divide was variously claimed by the United States, Great Britain, Spain, Russia and France through the 1820s. The United States and Great Britain agreed to joint ownership of the “Oregon Country” in 1818, and the United States took full jurisdiction in 1846. From then, western Montana was part of Oregon Territory, then Washington Territory in 1853.

FAST FACTS

STATEHOOD:
1889

FIRST FEDERAL CENSUS:
1860 (as Nebraska/Washington); 1870 (as Montana)

BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS BEGIN:
1895 (local); 1907 (state)

MARRIAGE RECORDS BEGIN:
From county formation

CONTACT FOR VITAL RECORDS:
MT Dept. of Health and Human Services,
Office of Vital Statistics

Land east of the Divide changed hands multiple times between France and Spain, then was sold to the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase. It remained unorganized until becoming part of Nebraska Territory in 1854, then Dakota Territory in 1861.

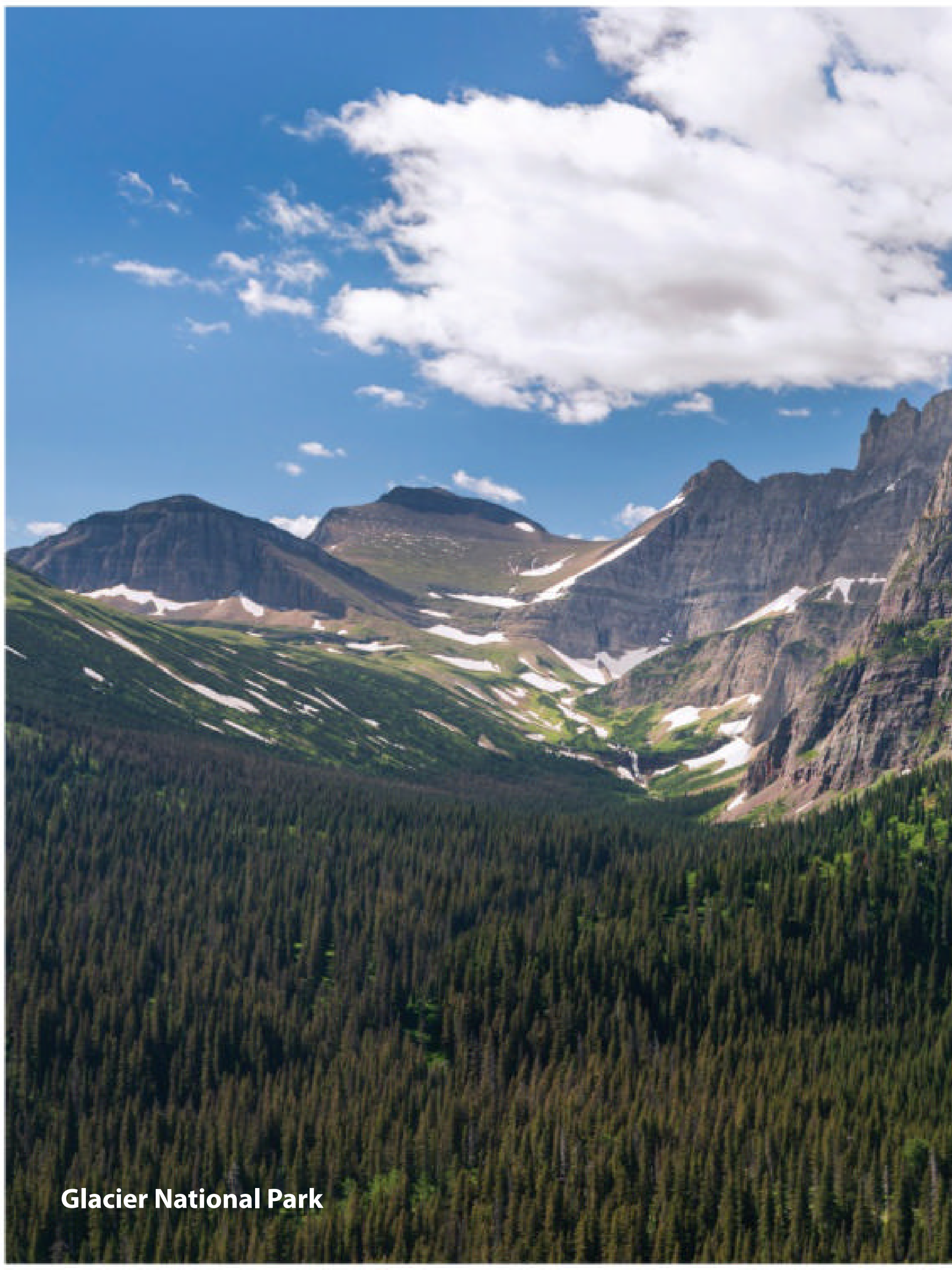
Gold discoveries in the early 1860s increased interest in the region. Prospectors traveled on foot or via steamboat to found boomtowns that disappeared as soon as the gold did. Ample land also attracted ranchers.

The whole modern state was part of Idaho Territory in 1863, and President Abraham Lincoln signed an act creating Montana Territory in 1864. Montana’s new residents included supporters of both sides of the then-ongoing Civil War, reflected in contemporary place names: Yankee Flat, Unionville and Confederate Gulch, to name a few.

New US settlements further strained relationships with local tribes. which had been worsening for decades. In the famous “Custer’s Last Stand” of 1876, the Sioux, Arapaho and Northern Cheyenne defeated George Armstrong Custer and his US cavalry on the banks of the Little Bighorn River. Also of note, Nez Perce leader “Chief Joseph” surrendered to the US government in the Bear Paw Mountains a year later. Tribes were driven from the region or confined to increasingly small reservations.

Copper was discovered in Butte in the early 1880s, leading to the rise of “copper kings” like Marcus Daly. The conglomerate Anaconda Copper Mining Company became one of the largest mining companies in the world, and had far-reaching impact on local politics and even media.

Find your own genealogical gold in "The Treasure State."


Glacier National Park

LEEZSNOW/ISTOCK

The mining industry—of gold, copper, and (later) coal and natural gas—attracted workers from around the country. Their travel was made easier by the arrival of railroads, including the transcontinental Northern Pacific Railway that was ceremoniously completed in Gold Creek.

Montana became a state in 1889 alongside Washington and its neighbors North and South Dakota. Its population boomed from 20,000 in 1870 to 243,000 in 1900.

Some 300,000 people filed for homesteads in Montana, driven (in part) by campaigns from railroads. Homesteaders sought their fortune in Montana as early as 1862, when the first Homestead Act was passed. But the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909 offered even more land and shortened the amount of time needed to take ownership.

Despite mine closures and agriculture setbacks throughout the 20th century, Montana's natural beauty and wide-open spaces continue to draw admirers.

VITAL TREASURES

The Montana legislature first required practitioners such as clergy, doctors and midwives to keep birth and death registers in 1895, but didn't mandate *state-level* registers until 1907. The state office of vital statistics <dphhs.mt.gov/vitalrecords> has records from 1907 to the present, though they're restricted to immediate family members and other authorized representatives.

Individual counties may have kept birth and death records earlier. You can find surviving records at the county clerk office.

Subscription website Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com> has collections of birth and death records (both indexes and, in some cases, images of original records) sourced from the Montana Historical Society and department of health. Likewise, the free FamilySearch website has a statewide index of deaths dating to 1860 <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1941331> and birth and death records for a handful of counties <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1930397>.

Montana began indexing marriage records in 1943; to this day, the state itself doesn't keep records of marriages. Instead, find records at the county clerk of the district court, or in collections at Ancestry.com, FamilySearch and MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com>.

Montana is also one of the 12 states included in Brigham Young University—Idaho's free Western Marriage Index

TIMELINE

1803
The United States acquires vast land —including most of modern Montana —in the Louisiana Purchase

1841
Catholic missionaries found St. Mary's, recognized as the first permanent white settlement in Montana

1846
Great Britain cedes its claim to "Oregon Country," including western Montana

1864
Montana Territory is established

1872
Yellowstone National Park is created

<abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/Search.cfm>.

COUNTING MONTANANS

Montanan communities first appeared in the federal census in 1860, albeit under different names that reflected territorial borders. Areas west of the Continental Divide were enumerated as part of Washington Territory's Spokane County, and areas east of the Continental Divide appeared as part of Nebraska Territory. Montana was enumerated in its own right beginning in 1870, as a territory.

Federal censuses through 1950 are widely available at sites like Ancestry.com, FamilySearch and MyHeritage. Note that most of the 1890 census has been lost.

The state hasn't taken any of its own censuses, nor did it as a territory. Nebraska and Washington each conducted territorial censuses throughout the 1850s, but they didn't enumerate settlements in modern Montana.

OTHER RECORDS

Look for your Montana ancestors in these other documents.

- **Land Records:** Because Montana is a public-land state, land there was surveyed, divided and sold by the

1876
The Sioux and Cheyenne defeat George Armstrong Custer at the famous Battle of the Little Bighorn

1883
The Northern Pacific Railway, which ran from Minnesota to the Pacific, is completed in Gold Creek

1889
Montana is the 41st state in the Union

1916
Montanan Jeannette Rankin becomes the first woman elected to Congress

1924
Petroleum County is created from Fergus County, the last major change to Montana's county boundaries

federal government. Land patents are accessible through the Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office site <glorecords.blm.gov>, track books from FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2074276> and land office records at the National Archives at Denver <www.archives.gov/denver>. As in other public-land states, subsequent transactions between private individuals are recorded in deeds and held by county clerk and recorder offices; FamilySearch has collections for some counties.

● **Newspapers:** The Montana Historical Society maintains a database of 800,000-plus newspaper pages from the state <www.montananewspapers.org>, dating from 1873. The free Chronicling America <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> has additional titles, as do subscription websites Newspapers.com <www.newspapers.com> and GenealogyBank <www.genealogybank.com>.

● **Local Publications:** The Montana History Portal <www.mtmemory.org> holds digitized copies of more than 2,000 yearbooks from high schools and colleges, published local histories, back-issues of *Montana Woman* magazine (1926–1957), diaries of residents, and obituaries from Big Horn County.

● **Military Records:** Montana was not yet a territory for most of the Civil War, so any Montanans (present or future) would have served in regiments from other states or territories. Montana was well-represented among US forces in World War I: The federal government overestimated Montana's population and drafted more men than it meant to, resulting in a whopping 10% of the state's population going to war. The Montana History Portal has enlistment records from both World Wars as well as the Spanish-American War.

● **Church Records:** Jesuit Catholic missionaries were among the earliest settlers of European origin in Montana, and the Catholic Church continues to have a strong presence in the state. Other notable denominations include Methodists, Presbyterians and Episcopalians, as well as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Historical church records are generally held by the churches' modern successors. Ancestry.com has nationwide collections for some denominations.

● **Oral Histories:** The Montana Historical Society's collection of oral histories dates to the 1880s, which subprojects on war brides, the Korean War, the New Deal and more. The Montana History Portal holds interviews as well.

Andrew Koch is the editor of *Family Tree Magazine*.

TOOLKIT

Websites

Cyndi's List: Montana <www.cyndislist.com/us/mt>

FamilySearch Research Wiki: Montana <www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Montana,_United_States_Genealogy>

Linkpendium: Montana <www.linkpendium.com/mt-genealogy>

Montana History Portal <www.mtmemory.org>

MTGenWeb <www.mtgenweb.com>

Publications

An Illustrated History of the State of Montana by Joaquin Miller (The Lewis Publishing Co.) <www.archive.org/details/illustratedhisto00mill/page/n9/mode/2up>

First Families of Montana and Early Settlers, five volumes (Montana State Genealogical Society)

A History of Montana, three volumes edited by Merrill G. Burlingame (Lewis Historical Publishing)

Montana: A History of Two Centuries by Michael P. Malone et al. (University of Washington Press)

Montana: The Magazine of Western History (Montana Historical Society) <mhs.mt.gov/pubs/Magazines>

Montana Indians: Their History and Location (Division of Indian Education, Montana Office of Public Instruction) <opi.mt.gov/Educators/Teaching-Learning/Indian-Education/People-Place-History>

Archives & Organizations

Montana Historical Society <mhs.mt.gov>

Montana State Genealogical Society <montanamsgs.org>

Montana State Library <msl.mt.gov>

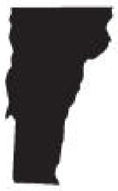
Montana State University Archives and Special Collections <www.lib.montana.edu/archives>

National Archives at Denver <www.archives.gov/denver>

RESEARCH GUIDE

VERMONT

by ANN D. WATSON



VERMONT EVOKES IMAGES OF MAPLE SYRUP, dairy farms, fall foliage, winter sports, fishing, swimming, hiking in the mountains, and more. Its location between Lake Champlain, the Connecticut River and Canada has influenced its history and contributed to the rich variety of its people.

From farmers to college professors, Green Mountain Boys to progressive politicians, Vermonters have always gone their own way. Vermont is a great place to research due to its good supply of accessible records. To learn how to find them, read on.

A HISTORY OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE

The area that became Vermont was home to about 10,000 Western Abenaki when French explorer Samuel de Champlain sailed down the lake known as *Bitawbwa* in 1609. Champlain claimed the region for France (and named the lake after himself), and French settlers followed.

After the French and Indian War ended in 1763, Vermont attracted settlers from overcrowded southern New England. The Abenaki, who had allied themselves with the French, faced even greater marginalization.

In the mid-1700s, Vermont was in a tug-of-war between its neighbors New Hampshire and New York. New Hampshire governor Benning Wentworth issued dozens of town charters for lands west of the Connecticut River. The New York colonial government began granting its own patents for the same lands, and asserted its control in 1770 when its Supreme Court declared the New Hampshire Grants invalid.

Frontiersman Ethan Allen and his cousins responded to the conflict by forming the "Green Mountain Boys," a militia that harassed the "Yorkers" using public humiliation, beatings and threats to drive them from the area.

FAST FACTS

STATEHOOD:
1791

FIRST FEDERAL CENSUS:
1790 (actually enumerated in 1791)

BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS BEGIN:
1857 by state law; earlier in some towns

MARRIAGE RECORDS BEGIN:
1857 by state law; earlier in some towns

CONTACT FOR VITAL RECORDS:
VT Department of Health

Vermont declared itself an independent republic in 1777, adopting a constitution that prohibited the enslavement of adults and established religious freedom and public schools. The Continental Congress didn't recognize Vermont's claims, though the Green Mountain Boys and other Vermont militia groups played an important role in the American Revolution.

Vermont became the 14th state—the first that hadn't been one of the Thirteen Colonies—on 4 March 1791. Lured by land, settlers flowed into the state, especially Irish and French Canadian immigrants and those of English descent from southern New England.

Flooding, fever epidemics, economic depression, and an extremely cold summer in 1816 impelled Vermonters to seek greener pastures elsewhere by the 1820s. Population growth slowed as natives headed west or left to work in New Hampshire, New York and Massachusetts factories. The Merino "sheep craze" ended in many small farmers selling out to bigger enterprises and moving west, where their money bought more acreage.

During the Civil War, Vermont produced key goods for the Union: cloth, rifles, gunpowder and copper. Some 35,000 Vermonters (including 150 African Americans) served, and 5,000 lost their lives. Many survivors settled elsewhere.

More immigrants arrived in the late 1800s through the mid-1900s, many to work in mining and manufacturing. They included Armenians, Austrians, Czechs, Germans, Greeks, Hungarians, Lebanese, Poles, Scots, Swedes and Syrians.

Times were tough in early 20th-century Vermont. Tensions grew between labor and industry, Yankee and immigrant, and rich and poor. Farmers struggled, as did many during the Great Depression. A devastating flood in 1927 affected the entire state.

In the 1930s the state undertook a concerted effort to attract tourists to Vermont—a campaign that continues to the present. Aided by new interstate highways, tourism brought new residents and back-to-the-landers.

FINDING VITALS

Vermont vital records, consistently recorded since 1857, are kept at the town level; a copy is sent to the state. Some towns kept records as early as 1760, documenting events in town records books.

Start your search using the Vermont Vital Records index, which extends through 1908 and is available on Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com/search/collections/4661> and FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1784223>. These are filmed index cards, not original documents. You can find the records themselves on FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1987653>. For best results, click Browse This Collection, then follow directions to the town you're researching.

Ancestry.com and FamilySearch also have various collections of later (post-1909) vital records. Consult each site's card catalog.

To order original records, contact the town/city clerk. For records created after 1909, you can also order from the state department of health <www.healthvermont.gov/stats/vital-records-population-data/order-vital-records>, which has published an index of births and deaths from 1909 to present <secure.vermont.gov/VSARA/vitalrecords/search-tool.php>. The state archives <sos.vermont.gov/vsara/request/certified-vital-records> can provide certified copies of marriage and divorce records from as recently as 2013.

ENUMERATING VERMONTERS

Because it was not officially part of the United States at the time, Vermont wasn't enumerated in the "1790" federal census until it became a state the next year. Families that moved from another state to Vermont between 1790 and 1791 might be listed in both states.

Federal censuses through 1950 are widely available at major genealogy websites, including Ancestry.com, FamilySearch and MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com>. Vermont's 1890 census records were lost along with those from most of the rest of the country. Don't forget about the various "special" schedules for mid-19th-century censuses, available on Ancestry.com and through the National Archives <www.archives.gov/research/census/nonpopulation>.

Vermont has never taken its own state census, nor did it take censuses in Colonial times. Jay Mack Holbrook compiled *Vermont 1771 Census* (Holbrook Research Institute) from data in several documents, including Vermont counties that were claimed by New York and enumerated as part of that colony. Note that some early landholders never actually lived at their listed Vermont property.

LAND OF GREEN MOUNTAINS

Vermont land records are held in town clerk's offices. Many early records—as well as some from after 1900—were filmed and are browsable at FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1409123>. (These is no statewide index.) You'll need to go to the local town clerk's office to access records that haven't been microfilmed.

When Vermont towns were chartered, land was granted to a group of proprietors, then divided into lots. The first land references are to "lot numbers," rather than metes and bounds. Most town lotting plans are online at the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration <sos.vermont.gov/vsara/explore/places/lotting-plans>.

Given the state's history of land disputes, some pre-1777 records might be in New York. New York's Charlotte and Albany Counties covered the western part of modern Vermont, and Gloucester and Cumberland Counties covered the east.

OTHER RECORDS

Look for your Vermonter ancestors in these other documents:

- **Probate and Court Records:** Vermont probate courts are divided into districts; use a chart on the RootsWeb Wiki <wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/Vermont_County_

DSCHREIBER29ISTOCK

TIMELINE

1609
Samuel de Champlain explores Vermont

1724
The English found the first permanent European settlement in Vermont at Fort Dummer (now Brattleboro)

1749
New Hampshire's government issues its first land grants in what is now Vermont

1763
France formally cedes much of its land in North America to Britain

1770
New York invalidates land grants made by New Hampshire; the Green Mountain Boys militia forms to repel New Yorkers' advances

The Green Mountains

1777

Delegates from several towns declare the independent Vermont Republic

1791

Vermont becomes the 14th state of the Union

1835

Lamoille County is created, the last major change to Vermont's county borders

1864

A small band of Confederate soldiers conduct St. Albans Raid near the Vermont-Canada border, the northernmost land action of the Civil War

2011

The State of Vermont recognizes the Nulhegan and Elnu Abenaki, then the Koasek and Missisquoi Abenaki tribes in 2012

(Probate)_Resources> for a breakdown. Court records were originally held by the probate district or county courthouse, and many have been transferred to the Vermont State Archives <sos.vermont.gov/vsara> (Research > Guide, then probate district or county). Note that pre-1777 court records would be in New York or New Hampshire archives, and some early probate records were destroyed in fires.

Ancestry.com has images of probate records from about half of Vermont's counties <www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9084>, and FamilySearch has a growing collection of imaged probate files <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1435692>. The Ancestor Hunt has a page of free probate records online <www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/free-vermont-probate-records-and-wills/#.YHB1Fi2ZOL7>.

- **Newspapers:** Newspapers.com <www.newspapers.com> and GenealogyBank <www.genealogybank.com> hold many digitized Vermont newspapers. Vermont residents can obtain free access to Newspapers.com's Vermont papers through the state website <sos.vermont.gov/vsara/explore/newspapers>. Many papers are also available at the Library of Congress' Chronicling America site <chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> and Fulton History <fultonhistory.com>.
- **Church Records:** Early Vermont churches were predominantly Baptist, Methodist, Congregationalist and Catholic. Though many churches have their own, nondigitized collections of records, several repositories hold original church records or transcriptions. Check The Leahy Library of the Vermont Historical Society <www.vermonthistory.org/leahy-library>, the Special Collections at Middlebury College <www.middlebury.edu/library/special-collections> and the University of Vermont <cdi.uvm.edu>. FamilySearch has an incomplete index to births and christenings <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1675544>, and the Vermont State Archives has a microfilm collection of church records <www.stonehouseresearch.com/vermont-church-records-at-the-state-archives>.

  Catholic church records, plus some others, can be found at the Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society and Vermont Genealogy Library <www.vtgenlib.org>.
- **Early Town Records:** Many early town record books—which include town meetings, some vital records, and a few wills and deeds—are viewable on FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1987653>.

Ann D. Watson, M.Ed., is a Vermont genealogist, a family history writer, and the owner of Family Pictures Genealogy <www.familypicturesgenealogy.com>. She holds certificates from the Boston University Genealogy Studies Program and ProGen, and has authored several family history books.

TOOLKIT

Websites

Cyndi's List: Vermont <www.cyndislist.com/us/vt>

FamilySearch Research Wiki: Vermont <www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Vermont,_United_States_Genealogy>

Linkpendium: Vermont <www.linkpendium.com/vt-genealogy>

VTGenWeb <sites.rootsweb.com/~vtgenweb>

Publications

Freedom and Unity: A History of Vermont by Michael Sherman, Gene Sessions, and P. Jeffrey Potash (Vermont Historical Society)

Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research, sixth edition, edited by Rhonda R. McClure (New England Historic Genealogical Society)

"Immigrants and Ethnic Diversity in Vermont, 1840–1930" by Elisas A. Guyette <www.flowofhistory.org/immigrants-and-ethnic-diversity-in-vermont-1840-1930>

The Story of Vermont: A Natural and Cultural History, second edition, by Christopher McGrory Klyza and Stephen C. Trombulak (University Press of New England)

The Vermont Encyclopedia edited by John J. Duffy, Samuel B. Hand, and Ralph H. Orth (University Press of New England)

The Western Abenakis of Vermont, 1600–1800 by Colin G. Calloway (University of Oklahoma Press)

Archives & Organizations

New England Historic Genealogical Society <www.americanancestors.org>

Genealogical Society of Vermont <www.genealogyvermont.org>

National Archives at Boston <www.archives.gov/boston>

University of Vermont Libraries Digital Collections <cdi.uvm.edu>

Vermont Genealogy Library, Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society <www.vtgenlib.org>

Vermont Historical Society <www.vermonthistory.org>

Vermont State Archives and Records Administration <sos.vermont.gov/vsara>

Find Your U.S. Ancestors

RESEARCH GUIDE
CALIFO

RESEARCH GUIDE
PENNSYLVANIA

Each state-by-state guide includes:

- **How-to tutorials for finding records**
  Notes on how and when key documents were kept in the state, including vital records, state censuses and land records
- **Historical summaries and timelines**
  Narrative history with special emphasis on events that affected your ancestors, including year of statehood, large migrations, and major border changes
- **Links to key resources**
  Websites, books, and archives and organizations for further research

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<www.familytreemagazine.com/explore-by-state>
New states added each month.

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Purchase ($9.99 per guide; $49.95 for full collection) includes perpetual access to the most-recent version of the guide.

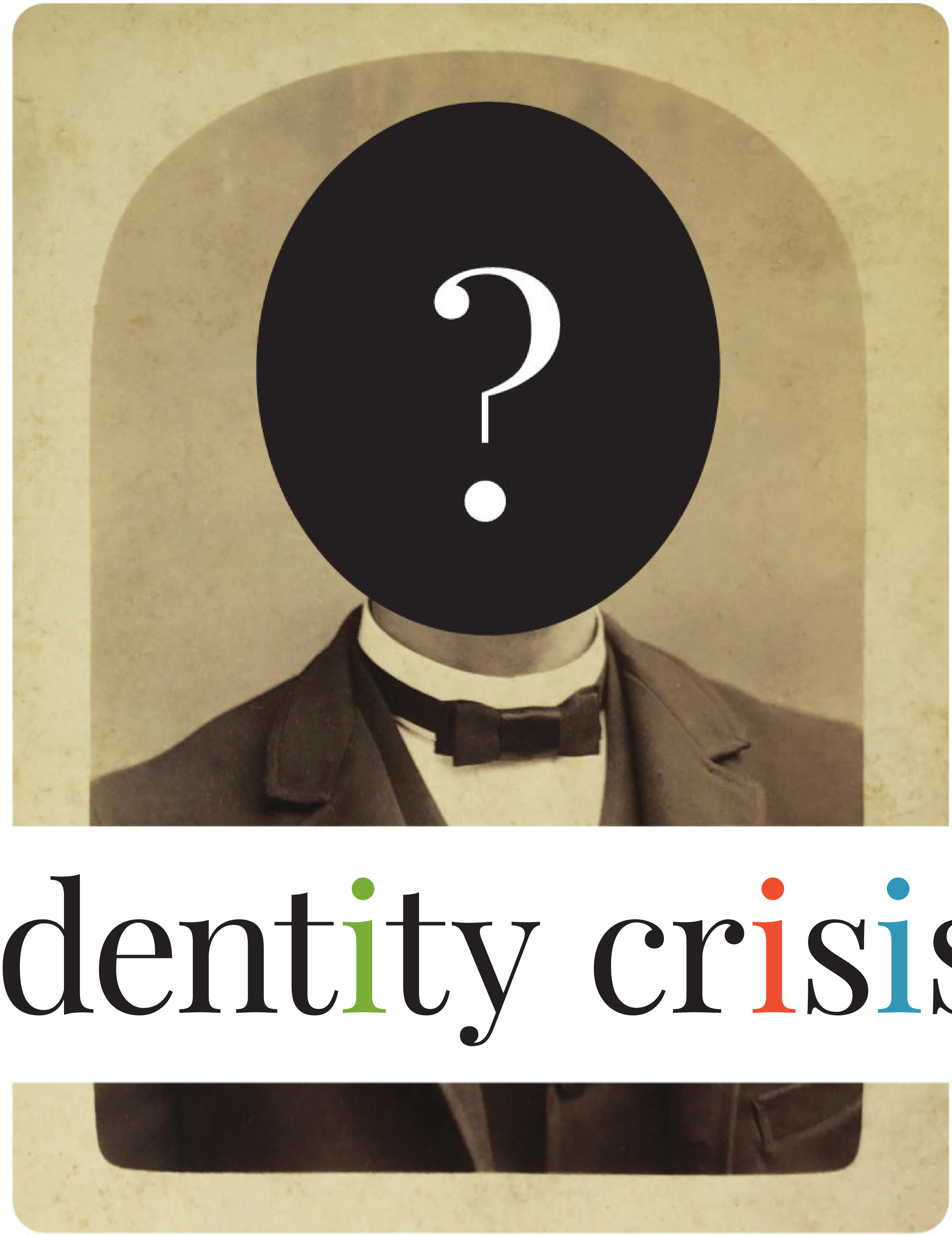
RESEARCH GUIDE PUBLICATION HISTORY

State/territory	Most recent issue
Alabama	Jan/Feb 2023
Alaska	Sep/Oct 2022
Arizona	Jul/Aug 2021
Arkansas	May/Jun 2022
California	Mar/Apr 2021
Colorado	May/Jun 2019
Connecticut	Nov/Dec 2021
Delaware	Jan/Feb 2018
Florida	Jan/Feb 2022
Georgia	Sep/Oct 2020
Hawaii	Jul/Aug 2017
Idaho	May/Jun 2021
Illinois	May/Jun 2020
Indiana	Sep/Oct 2022
Iowa	Jul/Aug 2022
Kansas	Sep/Oct 2021
Kentucky	Jan/Feb 2021
Louisiana	Nov/Dec 2020
Maine	Jul/Aug 2022
Maryland	Jul/Aug 2020
Massachusetts	Jul/Aug 2019
Michigan	May/Jun 2022
Minnesota	Oct/Nov 2019
Mississippi	Sep/Oct 2021
Missouri	Jan/Feb 2022
Montana	Jul/Aug 2023
Nebraska	Sep/Oct 2020
Nevada	Nov/Dec 2022
New Hampshire	Jan/Feb 2020
New Jersey	Oct/Nov 2019
New Mexico	May/Jun 2023
New York	Dec 2019
North Carolina	May/Jun 2021
North Dakota	Dec 2019
Ohio	Mar/Apr 2021
Oklahoma	Jul/Aug 2020
Oregon	Jan/Feb 2023
Pennsylvania	Jul/Aug 2021
Puerto Rico	Jan/Feb 2021
Rhode Island	Mar/Apr 2022
South Carolina	May/Jun 2023
South Dakota	Nov/Dec 2021
Tennessee	Sep 2019
Texas	Mar/Apr 2022
Utah	Mar/Apr 2023
Vermont	Jul/Aug 2023
Virginia	Nov/Dec 2022
Washington	Nov/Dec 2020
Washington DC	Mar/Apr 2020
West Virginia	Mar/Apr 2023
Wisconsin	Mar/Apr 2020
Wyoming	Jan/Feb 2020

UP NEXT*

Hawaii, Massachusetts	Sep/Oct 2023
Colorado, Tennessee	Nov/Dec 2023
Minnesota, New Jersey	Jan/Feb 2024

**Schedule subject to change*



identity crisis

You'll need more than a name to prove that a person in a record is your ancestor. These tips (plus a case study) will help you overcome common pitfalls for establishing identity.

by ROBYN N. SMITH

JULIE BARNETT

Many beginning genealogists are advised to be aware of the mistake called "the name's the same." That phrase refers to finding someone in a source—perhaps a census or tax record—and assuming they're the person of interest simply because they have the same name.

But that's not always the case, as many people (even within one community) could have the same name. This creates a problem of identity.

If you've also found people early in your research who you thought were relatives but later discovered they weren't, you know the disappointment. You might feel you've wasted your time, or even resist letting go of these phantom ancestors if you've spent long hours in the search.

But don't despair. We *can* learn the skills and strategies to properly solve problems of identity in our research. Here are different factors to consider when establishing someone's identity, plus a case study for how I was able to sort through a many-named research subject.

Identity in Genealogy

Genealogical research usually begins with a question we want to answer. That research question keeps our focus on the sources most likely to contain the information we need and helps us use our time efficiently.

Genealogists typically have research questions that fit into one of three broad categories:

1. **Relationship**: Is X related to Y? For example: Is Thomas the father of James?
2. **Event or circumstance**: When and where did X do Z? For example: When did Thomas immigrate, and what port did he arrive in?
3. **Identity**: Are these two the same person? For example: Is this "James Tanner" in Woodford County, Kentucky, in 1850 the same person as my ancestor, James Tanner?

That third type of question is our focus. *Genealogy Standards* by the Board for Certification of Genealogists (Ancestry.com) describes identity as:

> "Characteristics and contexts distinguishing one person from all other people throughout history."

This definition gets right to the beautiful point: We are all unique in time and place, and so were our ancestors. Through our research, we search for evidence of what made our ancestors one-of-a-kind.

How do we do that? By looking for defining attributes or characteristics, what I call "identity markers." These describe aspects of our ancestors, and (other than name) include:

- Birthdate/birthplace
- Occupation
- Location (or residence)
- Religious affiliation (or lack thereof)
- Middle name
- Nickname
- Landownership (or lack thereof)
- Military service (or lack thereof)
- Literacy (or lack thereof)
- Handwriting
- Place of death/burial

We use markers like these alongside other experiences and relationships that we've identified, forming the basis of "cluster research" or "F.A.N. [friends, associates and neighbors] research."

If we can weave together enough identity markers, relationships, and experiences from the sources, we can arrive at the unique person in time and place.

Common Mistakes with Identity

There are two major categories of identity mistakes we encounter in genealogical research.

The first is **merging identities** when sources that *actually* describe different people are believed to describe one person. For example, two males named Levi Prather lived in the first district of Montgomery County, Maryland, in 1870. One was a 3-year-old living with his presumed parents, and one was a 30-year-old man living with his presumed wife. The two Levis had different ages and living arrangements, but could be mistaken for one man.

In a similar way, the other major identity mistake is **splitting identities** when sources seem to refer to several different people but actually refer instead to one. For example, a man named Joe Doran appeared in several Hardin County, Tennessee, sources. A

Through our research, we search for evidence of what made our ancestors one-of-a-kind.

man named *Felix* Doran appeared in other sources. For many years, I believed they were two different men when in fact they were one man.

Both types of issues stem from a lack of thorough research and analysis. Certain assumptions—such as the belief that an ancestral couple was married—are always operating in the background, torpedoing our research by giving us blind spots.

In other cases, our research is simply too shallow. Perhaps we've overly relied on records that are available online, missing out on other resources. (There are still many records that haven't been digitized.) Online databases also operate via name-search, making identity mistakes easier to commit.

And, of course, individual records can contain incorrect or conflicting information, or details that are too ambiguous to understand without the right context. In the earlier Joe/Felix Doran example, I didn't have one, single piece of evidence that suggested the names both referred to him. I only came to that conclusion by looking at all the evidence at once.

6 Ways to Accurately Prove Identity

It's important to recognize and work against these pitfalls. When we don't prove identity sufficiently, we'll inaccurately attach our ancestors to other families. None of us want to do that!

Here are six ways prevent identity mistakes:

1 **Create a research plan**. The research question we discussed earlier should result in a dedicated research plan. Determine what and where you're going to search ahead of time, and consider seeking records that haven't yet come online.

2 **Track progress and identity markers**. Whether you use an Excel spreadsheet, a Microsoft Word table, or a genealogy software program, document what you've done. Make special notes about any identity markers you come across—for example, a middle initial in a census or tax record or a "mark" instead of a signature in a deed or marriage record.

3 **Pay attention to chronology**. Finding new records can be a rush, so many genealogists spend most of their time looking for them. But pause to consider whether it's plausible for *one* person to appear in the various documents you're finding. For example, it's unlikely one person would be listed multiple times in the same source. Therefore, multiple listings of similar names likely refer to different people. Also consider life context when analyzing records: Most people didn't marry for the first time or have their first child at age 50, so a record suggesting they did might well refer to someone else.

4 **Place individuals in the correct family**. Think of your ancestor as part of a family unit, which can help you distinguish them from others of the same name. Note their parents, spouse(s), children and siblings, and use those facts to eliminate candidates who have the same name but different relatives.

5 **Use tables and timelines**. Extract details from records and organize them in a new way to look for patterns. Compare details about two same-named people in a table to reveal whether it's likely

ADOBE STOCK

they're the same person, or build a timeline to keep tabs on multiple sources and events.

6 **Find and utilize maps.** Sometimes we can discern different individuals by visualizing where they lived. Many of the maps we need are not available from websites such as Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com> and FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org>. Look for them instead at state or university archives, historical societies, the Library of Congress <www.loc.gov>, or resources like the David Rumsey Map Collection <www.davidrumsey.com>. In addition to censuses and maps, deeds and tax records can help pinpoint our ancestor's location.

Identifying ancestors with common names is even more difficult! Read tips for finding the "John Smiths" in your family at <www.familytreemagazine.com/names/how-to-research-common-surnames>.

CASE STUDY: Finding Matilda

Let's look at a case study from my own research to see identity issues in action.

My goal was to uncover the maternal ancestry of Georgia Harris, who lived in Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida. Georgia was married to John Smith from 1920 until her death in 1949. Her death certificate lists John as the informant but (unfortunately) did not provide information about her parents.

My grandmother's family Bible, however, reported Georgia's mother was named Matilda Vickers. A Matilda Vickers died in 1944 in Jacksonville, with a John Smith acting as informant on her death certificate. Her birthplace was Taylor County, Florida, with an unnamed father and a mother named "Viney Nealy." (I couldn't find Viney Nealy in any Taylor County record.)

My search for Georgia's mother crossed two states and multiple counties—and served as a reminder why it's so important to consider identity when pursuing research.

A Different County

Unknown to some descendants, Georgia was previously married to Isaac Garner in Madison County, Florida. A search for records in that county revealed additional possibilities.

In the 1900 census, Georgia's apparent mother ("Matilda Davis") lived near her and her sister Ruth in Madison County. Georgia and Ruth are listed as step-daughters to Matilda's husband, Perry Davis. I found Matilda and Perry's marriage record for 22 April 1899, in which Matilda is listed as "Tilda Harris." Was my grandmother's Bible wrong about Matilda's maiden name?

A Different State

I turned my attention to Matilda's other daughter, Ruth. Ruth married Nish Torrence and migrated to Philadelphia. By the 1920 census, their household included three children and a Florida-born woman named Matilda Garvin. Matilda's relationship to Nish was reported as mother.

Who was this Matilda? Was she actually Ruth's mother, or was Matilda also the name of Ruth's mother-in-law? Searches for Matilda Garvin in Philadelphia city directories turned up nothing, nor could I find a marriage record between Matilda Davis and a man named Garvin.

Ruth died in 1924 in Philadelphia. Her death certificate might have provided her mother's maiden name and the name of her then-unknown father, but it was (at the time) under privacy restrictions.

By the 1930 census, Nish Torrence was remarried and lived in Camden County, New Jersey—without Matilda Garvin. I couldn't find evidence that a Matilda Garvin died in Pennsylvania or New Jersey. Like so many of our ancestors, this Matilda seemed to magically appear in one record, only to disappear in others.

Later Censuses

I searched for more clues about a possible Matilda Vickers back in Jacksonville. I already had her death certificate, but that hadn't led anywhere useful to my research goal.

In the 1930 census, a Matilda Vickers lived with a woman named Katie Middleton. But Jacksonville city directories in 1928, 1930 and 1931 all list her as living at the home of John and Georgia Smith. The 1928 directory refers to her as the widow of a Peter.

TIMELINE: Many Records for Matilda(s?)

My research into Georgia's mother, Matilda, uncovered several possible candidates, each with a different surname. By comparing details in various records and organizing them in a timeline, I came to the conclusion that these similarly-named women were actually one person: Matilda Nealy, who married four times throughout her life. You can build a similar timeline for your own ancestors with confusing identities.

Date	Location	Source/event	Name in record	Estimated age/ birthdate	Identity marker notes
1 June 1880	Taylor County, Fla.	1880 federal census	Matilda Nealy	age 8 (b. 1872)	• Lived in Perry, 1st electoral district • Attending school
3 August 1891	Hamilton County, Fla.	Marriage record to Peter Harris	Matilda Nealy -> Matilda Harris	n/a	None
24 April 1899	Madison County, Fla.	Marriage certificate to Perry Davis	Matilda Harris -> Matilda Davis	n/a	None
1 June 1900	Madison County, Fla.	1900 federal census	Matilda Davis	age 26 (b. March 1874)	• Cannot read or write • Birthed two children; two still living • No occupation • Renting home • Lived in Withlacoochie, 8th precinct
17 August 1916	Duval County, Fla.	Marriage register to Frank Garvin	Matilda Davis -> Matilda Garvin	age 41 (b. 1875)	None
1 January 1920	Philadelphia, Pa.	1920 federal census	Matilda Garvin	age 42	• Can read and write • No occupation • Widowed
1921	Philadelphia, Pa.	Marriage application and return to Peter Vickers	Matilda Garvin -> Matilda Vickers	1 March 1875	• Parents: Charles and Lavinia Nellie (deceased) • Married once prior • Signed with mark
1 April 1930	Duval County, Fla.	1930 federal census	Matilda Vickers	age 55 (b. 1875)	• Living with Katie Middleton, called a cousin • No occupation
3 July 1944	Duval County, Fla.	Death certificate	Matilda Vickers	age 70	• Informant: John Smith • Birthplace: Taylor County, Fla. • Mother: "Viney Nealy" (Father unknown) • Burial at Mt. Zion Cemetery

The 1935 state and 1940 federal censuses both listed Matilda as living with a man named Cornelius Garner, who was called a roomer. Looking over all these different surnames and residences, I felt no closer to solving this puzzle.

But by this time, Ruth Torrence's 1924 death certificate had appeared in an Ancestry.com collection. Her husband, Nish, was the informant and reported her parents as Peter Harris and Matilda Mealy. Could this be the Peter referred to in the 1928 city directory? This was the first source to assert a father for Ruth (and presumably Georgia).

Searches of Duval and Madison County records for Pete(r) Harris came up empty, and I couldn't find a marriage record for a Matilda Mealy.

Making a Timeline

Who were all these Matildas? I decided to place every source I'd found for the various women named Matilda into a timeline (see an abbreviated version on page 46). I added all the identity markers I had gathered into a Notes column.

And there it was: The timeline starkly revealed that there was no overlap between the sources that named Matilda Davis, Matilda Garvin and Matilda Vickers. I had thought I was dealing with at least two (and possibly three) different women. But the timeline helped me see that these sources *could* describe one woman who married and was widowed multiple times.

By spending more time analyzing the records, I finally unlocked Matilda's identity. I could only overcome the numerous inaccuracies in individual sources by looking at them together:

1891: **Matilda Nealy** (not "Mealy") married Peter **Harris** in Hamilton County, Florida. The original marriage record misspelled her first name as "Matida" (no letter "l"). Hamilton County neighbors Madison and Taylor Counties.

1899: Matilda, presumably widowed, married Perry **Davis** in Madison County.

1916: Matilda went to Jacksonville where her daughter Georgia lived. Widowed again, she married Frank **Garvin**. The original marriage register recorded the name *Frank Gowen* instead of the accurate surname of Garvin. Frank Garvin died in Jacksonville in 1918.

c. 1920: Matilda Garvin moved to Philadelphia by the 1920 census to live with her daughter, Ruth Torrence. While in Philadelphia, Matilda Garvin married Peter **Vickers** in 1921. Ruth died in 1924, and Peter in 1925.

Birthdates are an important "identity marker." Learn how to sift through conflicting birthdates in records <www.familytreemagazine.com/records/vital/5-questions-to-determine-your-ancestors-correct-birthdate>.

Matilda moved back to Jacksonville. In the 1935 and 1940 censuses, she lived with a Cornelius Garner. He is Georgia's son from her first marriage, but is never correctly identified as Matilda's grandson. As we've discussed, she died in 1944 in Jacksonville.

A Family Reunited

Only one document—the Pennsylvania marriage application of Matilda to her fourth husband, Peter Vickers—included the names of her parents: Charles and Lavinia Nealy. In that same application, Matilda said she had been married only once prior.

That information allowed me to finally place Matilda Nealy accurately in her birth family. I found her in an 1880 census entry in Taylor County. By then, Lavinia had died, and Charles re-married to a Netty Williams in 1878. (The name "Viney Nealy" reported in Matilda's death certificate was accurate; "Viney" is a nickname for Lavinia!)

Matilda married four times in four different locations, and only appeared in the census with one husband. But certain identity markers stayed the same: Matilda was an African American woman, impoverished, and illiterate, and her movements shadowed her familial relationships. Her birthdate (except for one source) also was remarkably stable. By looking at all the records in concert with each other, I was able to connect the dots of her life.

• • •

A name is never enough to prove identity. Fortunately, genealogy has standards that can help us understand and avoid the identity minefield waiting for us in records. By adding and analyzing identity markers as we find them, we can solve difficult identity problems.

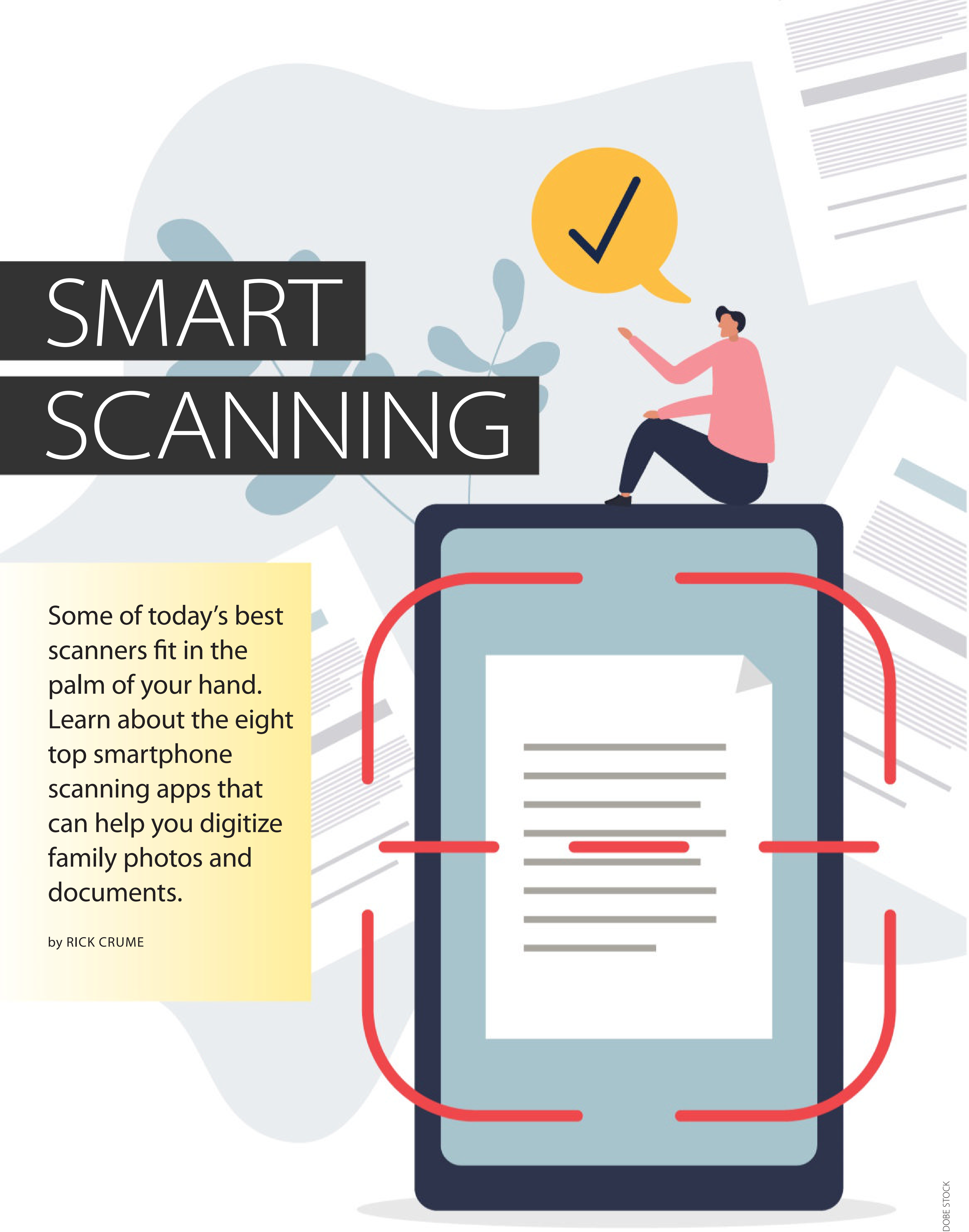
We're never going to have *all* the pieces we'd like to solve our family mysteries. But we can gather enough to solve the puzzle. ●

Robyn N. Smith has been researching her family and others' for over 25 years. An engineer by day, Robyn applies those research and problem-solving skills to the field of genealogy. She authors a popular genealogy blog called Reclaiming Kin <www.reclaimingkin.com>.

SMART SCANNING

Some of today's best scanners fit in the palm of your hand. Learn about the eight top smartphone scanning apps that can help you digitize family photos and documents.

by RICK CRUME



ADOBE STOCK

Smartphones combine the functionality of multiple devices: a telephone, camera (both still-photo and video), calculator, GPS-tracking unit, computer and flashlight. Now you can add another gadget to that list: scanner.

In fact, a scanning app could replace a desktop scanner altogether. Maybe you want to scan a fragile document, an old family Bible or a picture that's too big for a traditional scanner. When using a scanning app, you don't have to hold items flat and risk damaging them. And you can hold your smartphone a little farther away to get a large object in the picture.

Of course, you could simply use your smartphone's camera. But it can be hard to line up a photo or document properly and get the lighting right. A scanning app can help you with that, guiding you to take pictures at the right angle and offering cropping. Dedicated scanning apps might also allow you to save pictures in various file formats: typically, images of photos as JPGs and of documents as PDFs. The latter format allows you to save multiple images as one document.

Mobile scanning apps come in handy—and not just when you're away from home without access to a flatbed scanner. Here's a rundown of the key features of four scanning apps, plus another four specifically designed to work with the big genealogy websites. All of these apps are free (or at least have a free version), and all work with both iOS and Android devices.

Best Scanning App for Photos: Photomyne

Photomyne produced the best scans from photos of any app in this roundup, and the app packs in a host of photo-editing tools.

STANDALONE SCANNING APPS

Adobe Scan

<www.adobe.com/acrobat/mobile/scanner-app.html>

One of the best smartphone apps for scanning documents and books, Adobe Scan is primarily used for saving scans as PDF files.

You can scan multiple pages in succession and save them to a single PDF. That means you can keep all pages of documents like letters or family Bibles together in the same file.

To scan a two-page typewritten letter, I chose Document as the type. The app automatically cropped the pages, and the result is just as good as I'd get with a flatbed scanner.

Scanning a birth record, I again chose Document as the type. The resulting file has sharp text that's true to the original colors. Instead of retaining the cream-colored look of the old paper, however, the app cleaned up the background so it's pure white. That's good if you want to make a record look like new, but it's not ideal if you want to capture the look of an old document with all its imperfections.

To use the book-scanning option, line up your camera to scan two facing pages. Adobe Scan detects the pages on the left and the right and scans them separately. That saves time. You can also select the option for Book, rather than the default, Document.

Adobe Scan automatically recognizes text in your scans, whether the source is typewritten pages or books. That means you can easily search, copy and paste text in the new PDF files.

Your scans are saved to Adobe's cloud storage. The premium version of the app can export scans to other formats (including Microsoft Word and Excel files) and compress large files.

Google PhotoScan

<www.google.com/photos/scan>

Geared more toward scanning pictures than documents, Google PhotoScan saves files only in JPG format, not PDF.

After taking four pictures of the subject from different angles, Google PhotoScan stitches them together to create the best image possible. In the process, it removes glare, aligns the edges of the image, and crops it.

In my tests, the scanned birth record accurately reflects the original document's colors. However, the photo scans turned out too light, and scans of both photos and documents appeared a little less sharp than the same scans made with other apps.

As part of the Google family, PhotoScan provides multiple options for sharing scanned images with other applications: Google Drive, Google Photos and Gmail.

Mobile Scanning Apps: What to Consider

- **Type of files to be scanned:** Photos or documents? Multi- or single-page? PhotoScan and Photomyne are better for photos and fine for single-page documents, but Microsoft Lens and Adobe Scan are better for multi-page documents like books.
- **Compatibility:** Do you work more in Google Drive or Microsoft apps? Do you primarily use one genealogy website over another?
- **Cost:** The apps in this article are mostly free, but some charge for certain features.
- **Bonus features:** Text-recognition, saving/exporting as files besides PDF and JPG, etc.

Microsoft Lens

<bit.ly/microsoft-lens-page>

An app for scanning pictures, documents and books, Microsoft Lens lets you save scans in a variety of file formats, including JPG, PDF, Word and PowerPoint.

This app produces high-quality scans with accurate colors, comparable to most of the other apps reviewed here. After scanning an item, you can apply filters, crop the image, rotate it and add text. The app has handwriting recognition, but it wasn't very accurate in my limited testing.

To scan pages from a book, I selected Document as the type. Microsoft Lens scans one page at a time and can save a series of pages in a single PDF file. The text should have been recognizable in the PDF file, but it wasn't. So I used iLovePDF's OCR PDF <www.ilovepdf.com> on the file so the text could be searched and copied.

Microsoft Lens can extract text from the captured image and save it in a Word file in your OneDrive account. To do so, select the Word option, which applies optical character recognition (OCR) to an image of printed text. That worked for me.

Options for exporting files include OneNote and OneDrive. Open a file with the Drive PDF viewer, and you can save it to Google Drive or share via Gmail.

Compared to Microsoft Lens, I found Adobe Scan easier to use and more reliable for capturing and recognizing printed text.

Photomyne

<www.photomyne.com>

One of the best apps for scanning photos, Photomyne produced the sharpest scans of any app in my tests. It saves files only in JPG format, not PDF. Photomyne can scan multiple photos at once (including multiple photos on an album page) and automatically crop them. But you'll get better results scanning just one picture at a time.

Of all the apps in this roundup, Photomyne provides the most photo-editing tools. You can rotate an image, colorize it, change color to black-and-white, increase the contrast, and change a black-and-white photo to sepia. You can also sharpen faces and even animate them using "Live Portrait." In addition, you can label a photo with the date and location, add voice captions and tag faces.

The free version of Photomyne has ads. The premium version removes ads and has more features, such as unlimited scanning and sharing albums online.

Photomyne has separate apps for digitizing slides and negatives, and the company sells scanning accessories such as phone mounts and backlights for scanning slides and negatives.

SCANNING APPS FOR THE BIG GENEALOGY WEBSITES

Ancestry App

<www.ancestry.com/cs/ancestry-app>

The Ancestry App gives you access to just about all the features on Ancestry.com from your mobile device. In addition to building your family tree, searching historical records and accessing your DNA test results, you can scan photos and documents and attach them to profiles in your Ancestry Member Tree.

The app's scanning feature (powered by Photomyne) was in beta when I tested it, but here's how it should work: Go to a person's gallery and click on the + icon to add a new item. From the options, select Scan Photos. Press the shutter button and the app

› **Learn how to organize all your digital images with these tips <www.familytreemagazine.com/organization/organizing-and-preserving-digital-photos>.**

Best Scanning App for Documents and Books: Adobe Scan

Adobe Scan makes it easy to scan documents and books, then save them as multipage PDF files and convert them to searchable text.

takes a photo, crops the image and saves a JPG file to the person's gallery.

Once it's added to the gallery, tap an image to edit it. Below the image, tap the pencil icon to crop, colorize and sharpen it and make other adjustments. Tap the person icon to add tags, the rectangular icon to add comments and the i in a circle to add a title, date, location and description.

You can also add audio. From the gallery's + icon, you can record or upload audio from your device—either your own recorded discussion of your research or audio of the person speaking.

FamilySearch Memories

<www.familysearch.org/mobile-apps>

FamilySearch actually has three mobile apps: one each for its Family Tree (see page 26), volunteer indexing, and sharing photos and memories.

In the latter, the Memories app, click the plus sign in a blue circle to add a new item. Then select from four options: Add Document, Write Story, Record Audio or Add Photo. Select either Add Document or Add Photo and you can take a new picture or select a file you've already submitted.

Take a new picture (Add Photo > Take Photo) and it will be added to your gallery as a JPG file where you can add a title, date, place and description. You can also tag faces in photos and add names to documents to link them to profiles in the FamilySearch Family Tree. Then you can organize Memories into albums, for example, for different branches of your family.

I really like how photos are displayed and how you can share Memories and albums via social media, email and links. I talked about using FamilySearch Memories in my article on storytelling tools at the Big Four genealogy websites <www.familytreemagazine.com/projects/online-tools-sharing-family-photos-stories>.

Findmypast App

<www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/getting-started/findmypast-app>

The Findmypast app lets you view and edit your family tree and search historical records—and add photos and documents.

To add a new picture or document, go to a person's profile in your family tree, tap Media > Add New Image. Then select Face to take a picture of people and save it as a JPG file. It will take a moment to detect the faces, then you can tag them. Select Text to take a picture of a document or something with text.

I took a picture of a gravestone with multiple names, and the app accurately transcribed them. I could tag the picture with names to link it to profiles in my family tree.

You can also add a title, description and location to images captured by the app. Options when you click on Share include Google Drive, OneDrive and Gmail.

MyHeritage App

<www.myheritage.com/mobile>

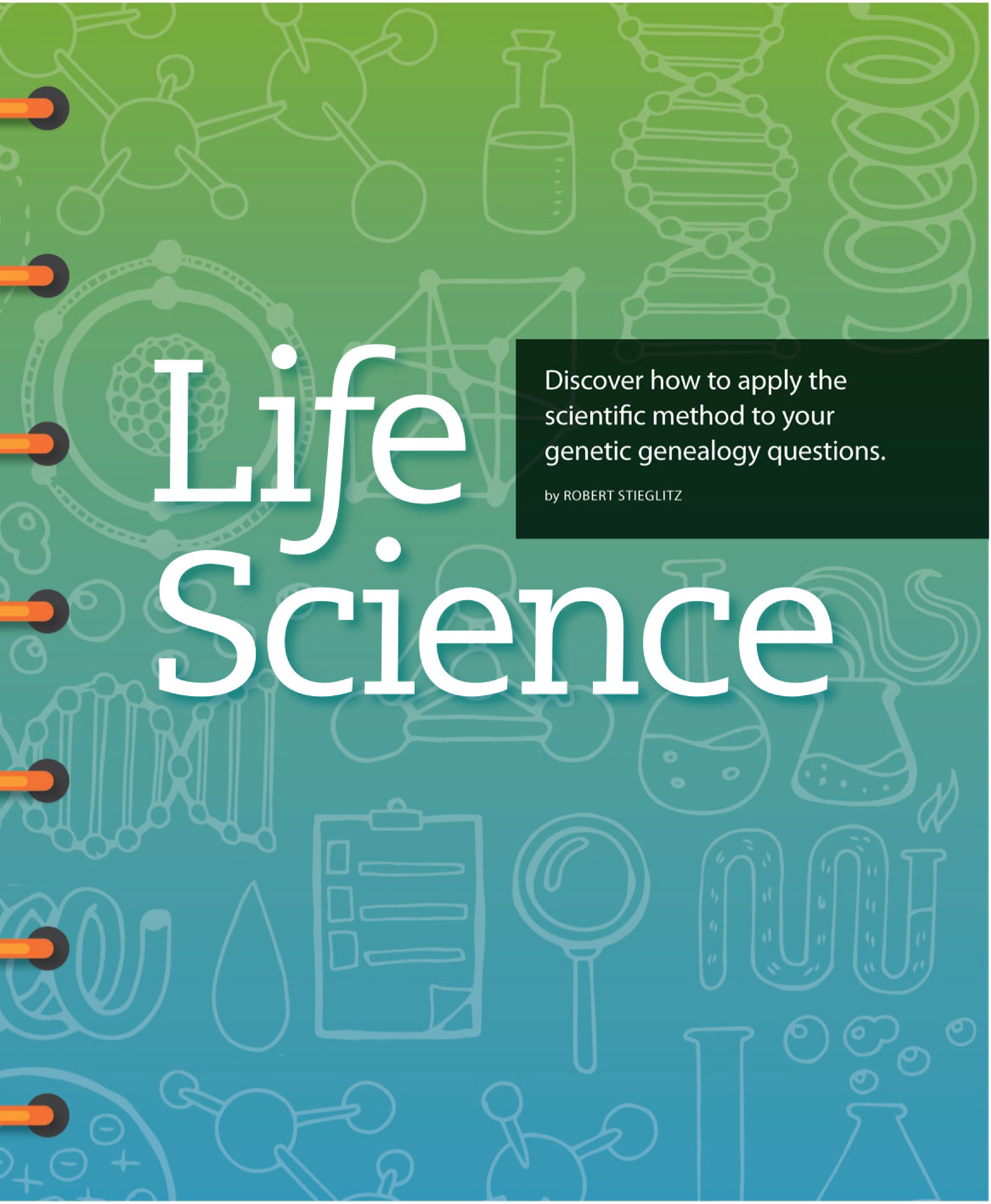
Using the MyHeritage App, you can edit your family tree, search historical records, check your DNA results and add photos.

To scan a new item, tap the three bars at the upper left, select the down arrow beside Photos, then hit Scan Photos & Docs. A light-red field will appear over the item; press the shutter icon to scan that highlighted section, then adjust the corners of the image.

After taking a picture, you can crop it and upload to MyHeritage. Then tap to add a title, date, place and description, or record a related audio snippet. You can also tag people from your family tree.

You can also take advantage of the extensive set of photo-editing tools on MyHeritage to repair and colorize the photo and sharpen faces. A slider allows you to view versions of photos both before and after some tools are applied. ●

A reluctant convert to smartphones, Contributing Editor **Rick Crume** has belatedly come to recognize their usefulness. He specializes in online research, genealogy software, British genealogy and DNA testing.



Life Science

Discover how to apply the scientific method to your genetic genealogy questions.

by ROBERT STIEGLITZ

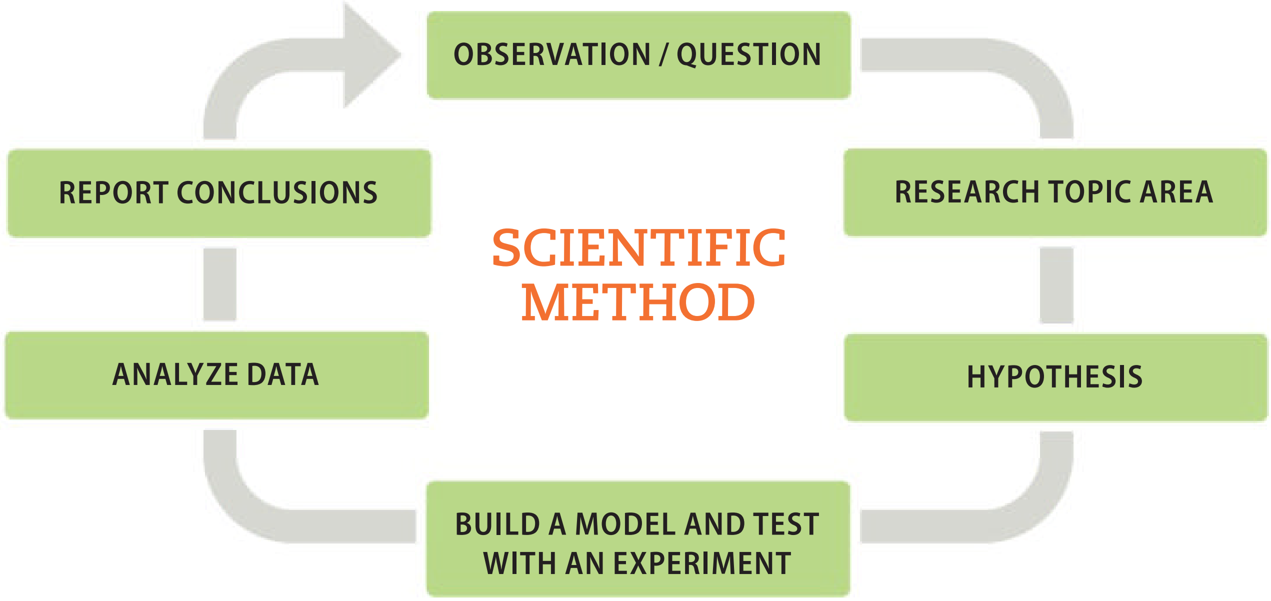


Figure 1

A representation of the steps of the scientific method.

Through the scientific method, researchers walk through a series of prescribed steps to solve a problem: asking a question, collecting data, developing a hypothesis, building a model and running an experiment that tests the hypothesis, then analyzing data and drawing conclusions based on results. See figure 1 for an overview.

And because *genealogy* is derived from the word "theory" or "science," it stands to reason that professionals can use the time-tested scientific method to investigate *genealogical* mysteries as well as physical ones. In fact, the genealogy industry has developed its own version of the scientific method: the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS).

When the paper trail comes to an end—as it always does—DNA testing can help establish familial relationships for which no records exist. Fortunately, the scientific method can be applied to both traditional ancestral research and to genetic genealogy.

In this article, I'll demonstrate how to use the steps of the scientific method to help solve a genetic mystery: how two unknown DNA matches and I are each related to a most-recent common ancestral couple. As we'll see, successful DNA analysis relies on accurately sourced family trees, as well as a correct understanding of DNA test results.

To begin, have your autosomal DNA (atDNA) tested at one of the big companies: 23andMe <www.23andme.com>, AncestryDNA <www.ancestry.com/dna>, Family Tree DNA <www.familytreedna.com> and MyHeritage DNA <www.myheritage.com/dna>. You should also encourage other relatives to test: parents, siblings, aunts, uncles and especially cousins (the closer, the better). If possible, request that they allow you to manage their results.

Test at multiple companies or upload your results from one service to another; by tapping into more databases, you'll maximize the number of potential relatives. You can also upload results to third-party websites such as GEDmatch <www.gedmatch.com>, which have their own user bases and analysis tools.

1

MAKE OBSERVATIONS AND ASK QUESTIONS

Scientific inquiries are sparked by something you notice, which leads to a question.

I've been researching my immigrant great-great-grandfather's parents, to no avail. I hoped that DNA testing could shed light on the mystery, so I tested my DNA and uploaded results to multiple websites. Some of my reported DNA matches share a "genealogical" amount of DNA with me, meaning I can feasibly determine who our most-recent common ancestor (MRCA) is.

The sites' shared matches tools, in particular, provide valuable information. They allow you to identify test takers who are related to each other, in addition to you. By combining shared DNA data with verified ancestral documentation, you can determine how matches who share a known ancestor might also relate to an unknown ancestor.

As I reviewed my DNA matches, I noticed two of them who seemed to be related to each other as well as to known relatives of my great-great-grandfather. That was my spark: Could these matches also be related to my great-great-grandfather?

JULIE BARNETT; SOURCE: TOM-IURCHENKOISTOCK

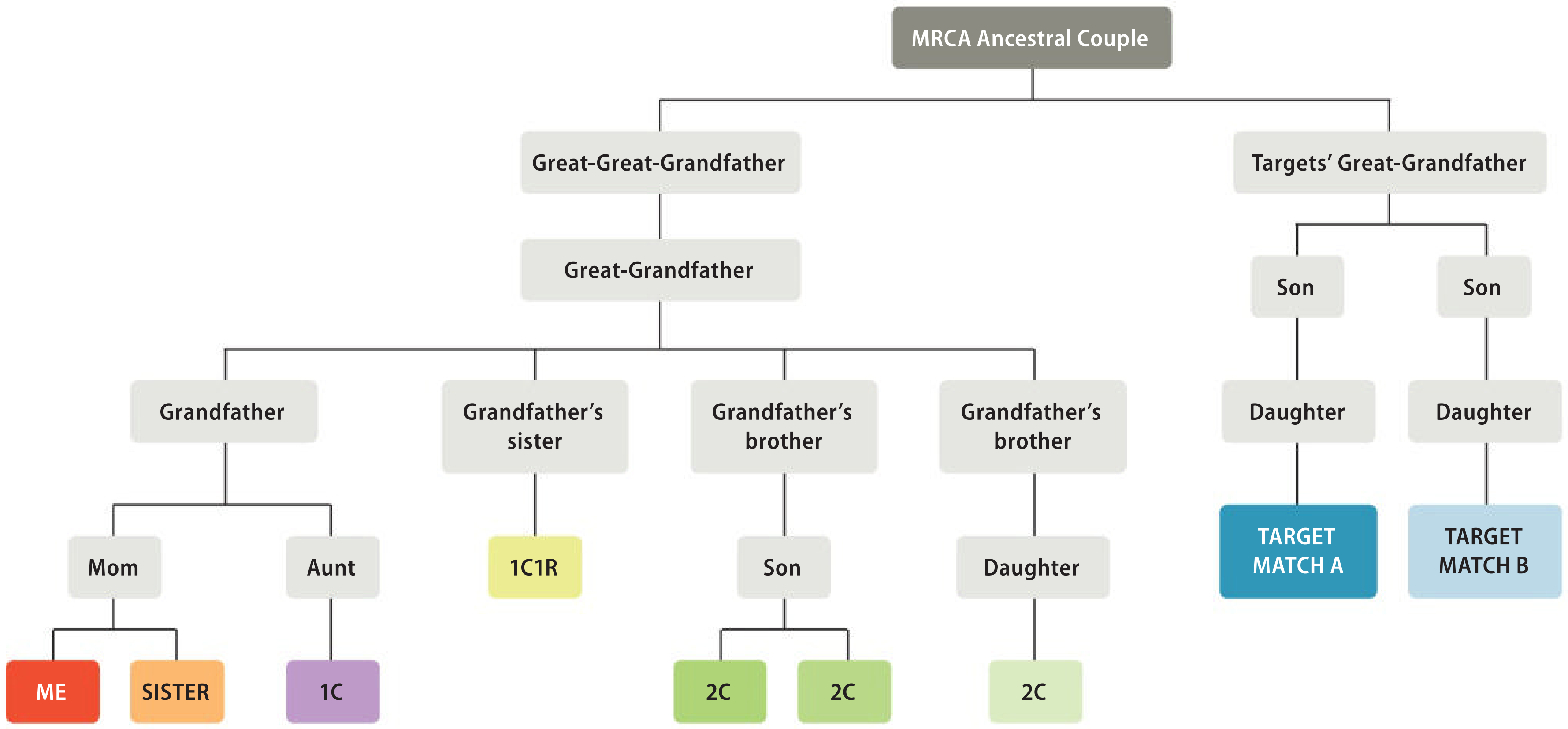


Figure 2

This model shows my hypothesized relationship with two unknown DNA matches: my great-great-grandfather as the brother of their great-grandfather. My known relatives who have taken DNA tests and I are highlighted.

2

RESEARCH THE TOPIC AREA

Next, do some initial research into the related subject. This will form the basis of your hypothesis, a potential solution to your question.

By digging more into the shared matches tool, I learned the following:

- Two test takers, who we'll call Target Matches A and B, descend from a known ancestral couple.
- Based on DNA and family trees, A and B are second cousins to each other; they share great-grandparents as their MRCA.
- A and B share DNA with me and many known family members on my great-great-grandfather's line.

Based on our estimated genetic relationships, the MRCA that I share with A and B share is one generation beyond my known family line. And genealogical records indicate all of our ancestors lived in the same part of Europe at the same time.

3

FORM A HYPOTHESIS

Based on available evidence, come up with a plausible, testable solution to your research question. For me: "My great-great-grandfather was a brother to A and B's great-grandfather."

Next, build a testable model that represents your hypothesis. This will be the framework through which you'll run your experiment. Because my hypothesis is that A, B and I all share an ancestral couple as our MRCA, my model is a descendant tree with that couple at its peak (see figure 2). If my hypothesis is correct, the couple would be my third-great-grandparents and A and B's great-great-grandparents.

4

TEST, AND GATHER DATA

Your experiment should generate data that will provide evidence for or against your hypothesis. In terms of DNA testing: Relatives share a somewhat predictable range of DNA (measured in centimorgans, or cM). If my hypothesis were true, it would be reflected in how much shared cM various known relatives have with each other and with A and B.

To get this information, we'll need the testing company to provide specific cM values between shared matches. Fortunately, MyHeritage DNA provides this, making data-collection easy. I viewed and recorded the shared-cM values between me and my various matches (including Target Matches A and B), then compiled them into a matrix table (see figure 3).

Next, I used various tools at DNA Painter <www.dnapainter.com> to determine if these cM values could plausibly reflect my hypothesized descendant chart:

- The Shared cM Project for determining the most-likely relationships based on cM values

JULIE BARNETT, BASED ON A DESIGN BY ROBERT STIEGLITZ

	Me	Sister	1C	1C1R	2C	2C	2C	Target A	Target B
Target A	119.5	88.8	70.5	58.4	49.6	33.6	0	n/a	180.8
Target B	40.1	34.1	56.5	101.9	88.5	46.6	28.1	180.8	n/a

Figure 3

This matrix shows how much DNA (in cM) various test takers and I share with Target Matches A and B.

- The What Are the Odds (WATO) tool for evaluating the likelihood of various relationships
- DNA Painter for chromosome-matching and triangulation that confirms common ancestor(s)

To begin: My hypothesis predicts that my sister, my first cousin (1C), my three second cousins (2C) , and I are all third cousins once removed (3C1R) with A and B. My first cousin once removed (1C1R) would be A and B's third cousin.

The Shared cM Project <www.dnapainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4> was created to study the connection between genealogical relationships and shared DNA. It's continually updated, and reports the expected cM value shared between two people of a known relationship—both the average and the reported range.

From the main page, click a relationship to view a histogram that visualizes the distribution of cM values. From the Shared cM Project's data, I learn that those two relationships have the following amounts of shared cM:

	Average (mean) cM	Observed cM Range	Standard Deviation*
3C1R	48 cM	0 to 192 cM	32 cM
3C	78 cM	0 to 234 cM	43 cM

**In statistics, "standard deviation" measures how much the data points in a set vary from the average. In layman's terms, standard deviation reflects how much higher or lower than the average you can reasonably expect data points to be.*

Next, I used DNA Painter's What Are the Odds (WATO) tool <www.dnapainter.com/tools/probability>. Given known relationships and shared cM values that you organize into a family tree, the tool generates hypotheses for how one target individual is related to the others.

WATO's hypotheses are given a score based on their likelihood. A score of 0 means the hypothesis is impossible, and a score of 1 or higher means it's possible. In situations where there are multiple possible hypotheses, scores reflect that hypothesis' likelihood relative to the hypothesis with a score of 1. Higher scores mean higher likelihood.

For example, say the tool generates three hypotheses that have scores of 100, 5 and 1. The score-100 hypothesis is 100 times likelier than the 1-score hypothesis, and 20 times likelier than the 5-score hypothesis.

I had the WATO tool generate hypotheses for both Target Match A and Target Match B. Each resulted in a few possible hypotheses: two for Target A, and three for Target B. See figure 4 for Target A's.

Finally, I used DNA Painter's chromosome-painting and atDNA segment triangulation tools. These report on specific segments of DNA that a group of matches share in common with each other. Larger shared segments correspond to recent shared ancestry.

The tool reports that my 1C, one of my 2Cs, Targets A and B, and I all share a 26.5-cM segment on chromosome 2. It also identified a 16.1-cM segment on chromosome 18 that my 1C, one of my 2Cs, Target A, and I all share.

5

ANALYZE DATA

Evaluating your model is the single-most important element of scientific methodology. Your hypothesis should satisfy the question-answer on all levels through an "if this, then that" format. In this case: "*If* Target Match A, Target Match B, and I descend from

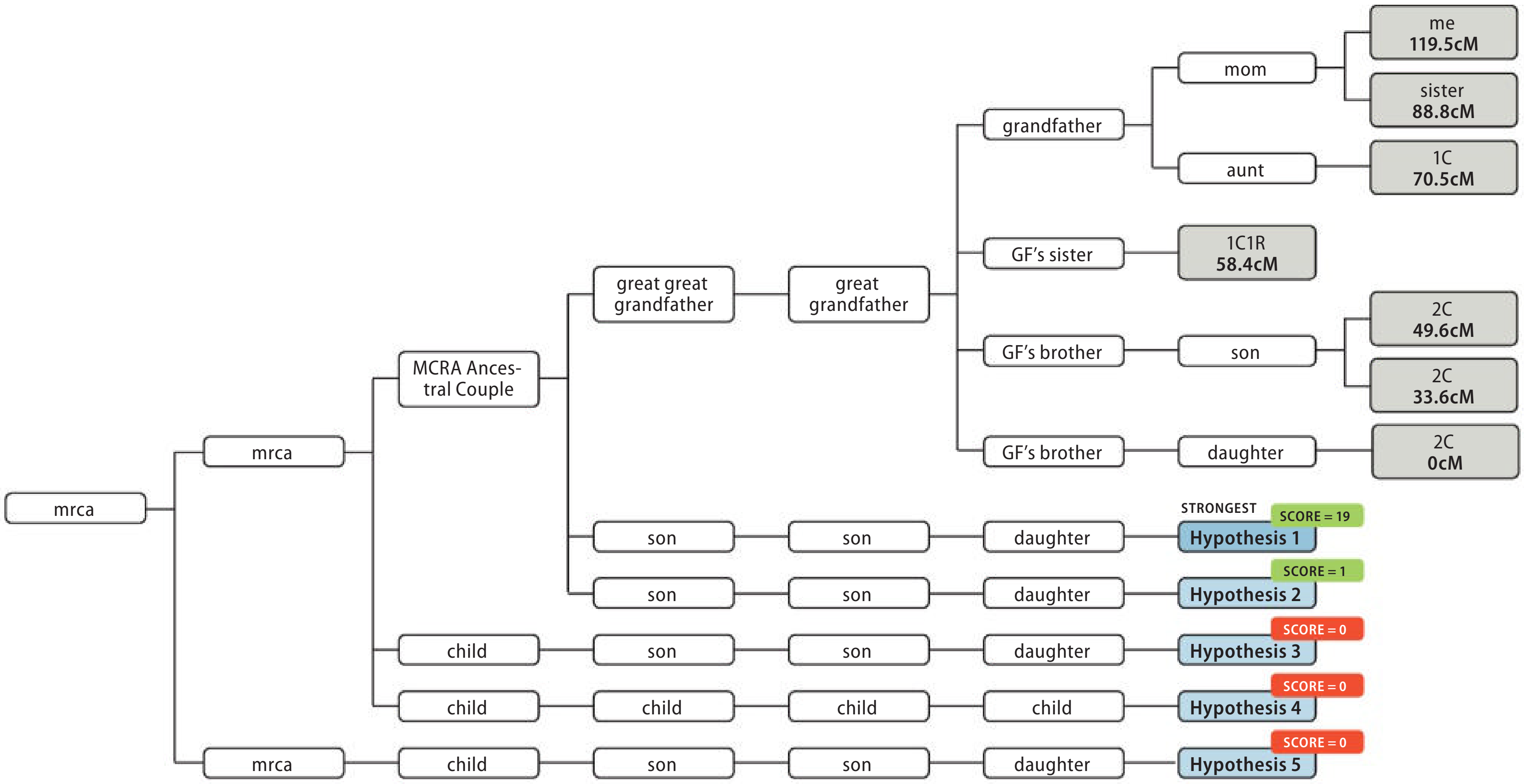

me
119.5cM
sister
88.8cM
1C
70.5cM
mom
aunt
grandfather
GF's sister
1C1R
58.4cM
2C
49.6cM
2C
33.6cM
2C
0cM
great great grandfather
great grandfather
GF's brother
son
GF's brother
daughter
MCRA Ancestral Couple
mrca
mrca
STRONGEST
SCORE = 19
son
son
daughter
Hypothesis 1
SCORE = 1
son
son
daughter
Hypothesis 2
SCORE = 0
child
son
son
daughter
Hypothesis 3
SCORE = 0
child
child
child
child
Hypothesis 4
SCORE = 0
mrca
child
son
son
daughter
Hypothesis 5

Figure 4: DNA Painter's What Are the Odds (WATO) tool generates various hypotheses for how an unknown relative is related to others. This shows the various hypotheses for Target A.

JULIE BARNETT, BASED ON A REPORT FROM DNA PAINTER

the hypothesized ancestral couple, *then* the shared-cM data should be consistent with predicted relationship levels."

Based on the data from your experiment, you determine whether to accept or reject the model. If you reject the model, you'll create a new one, then apply it in another experiment.

As a reminder: If the hypothesis were true, then A and B would be 3C1R to me, my sister, my first cousin, and my three second cousins. Based on the Shared cM Project's data, we would each share about 48 cM with A and B, with a standard deviation of 32 cM.

Comparing the matrix pulled from MyHeritage and the Shared cM Project, I observed that eight of the 12 predicted 3C1R relationships share between 16 and 80 cM with Target Matches A and B, meaning they're within one standard deviation of the average cM value. Three others fall within two standard deviations (e.g., between 0 and 112 cM), and a fourth lies just outside at 119.5 cM.

That's significant. In statistics, the "Empirical Rule" states that a normal distribution of data has 68% of data points within one standard deviation, and 95% within two standard deviations. In our experiment, 66.7% (eight of 12 relationships) were within one standard deviation and all but one of them (91.6%) were within two. That distribution nearly follows the Empirical Rule, thus supporting our hypothesis.

The WATO tool also supported the model hypothesis. For both Target Matches A and B, the tool's most-likely hypothesis was the one in which my great-great-grandfather was a sibling to A and B's ancestor: a 19:1 ratio for A and a 7:1 ratio for B.

Finally, the chromosome-mapping and atDNA triangulation tools found two large, triangulated segments between me, two known family members, and both A and B. That means a common ancestor is highly probable.

6

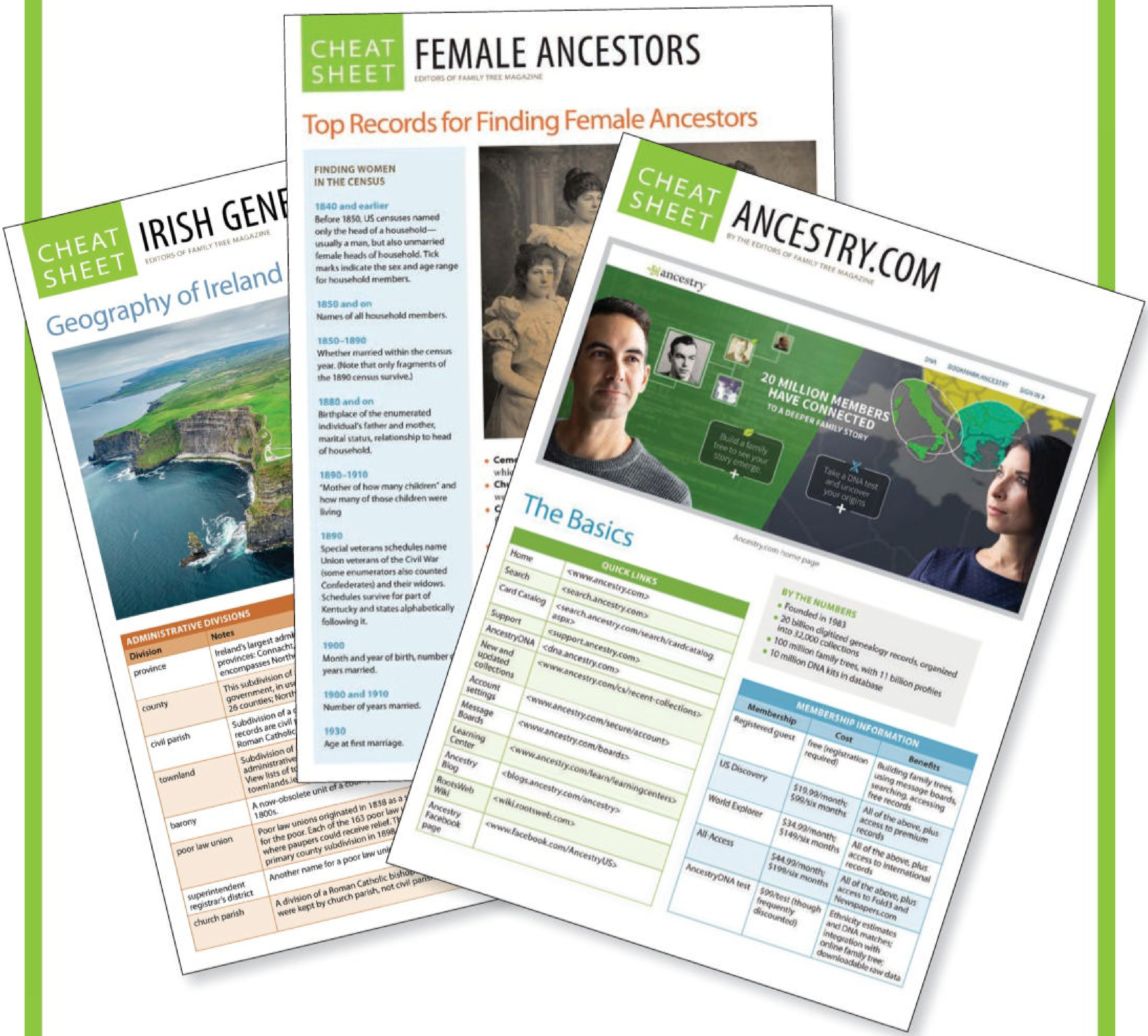
REPORT CONCLUSIONS

Consider what broader implications your results have. In this case, the experiment reinforced that genetic genealogy can add to your research even once the paper trail has ended.

DNA doesn't lie, but it does rely on proper understanding of results and analytical tools. Using rigorous standards that prioritize analysis and correlation of data (such as the scientific method and the GPS), you can apply DNA test results to your research and provide conclusions with reasonable certainty. ●

Robert Stieglitz is a retired chemistry/physiology teacher and hospital pharmacist. In 2020, he completed Boston University's Genealogy Studies Program. Since then, he has had 10 genealogical narratives published in various magazines, a few using the very method described in this article.

Genealogy at a glance



CHEAT SHEET

IRISH GENE

EDITORS OF FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE

Geography of Ireland

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

Division
Notes

province
county
civil parish
townland
barony
poor law union
superintendent registrar's district
church parish

CHEAT SHEET

FEMALE ANCESTORS

EDITORS OF FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE

Top Records for Finding Female Ancestors

FINDING WOMEN IN THE CENSUS

1840 and earlier
Before 1850, US censuses named only the head of a household—usually a man, but also unmarried female heads of household. Tick marks indicate the sex and age range for household members.

1850 and on
Names of all household members.

1850–1890
Whether married within the census year. (Note that only fragments of the 1890 census survive.)

1880 and on
Birthplace of the enumerated individual's father and mother, marital status, relationship to head of household.

1890–1910
"Mother of how many children" and how many of those children were living

1890
Special veterans schedules name Union veterans of the Civil War (some enumerators also counted Confederates) and their widows. Schedules survive for part of Kentucky and states alphabetically following it.

1900
Month and year of birth, number of years married.

1900 and 1910
Number of years married.

1930
Age at first marriage.

CHEAT SHEET

ANCESTRY.COM

BY THE EDITORS OF FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE

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Ancestry Blog	<blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry>
RootsWeb Wiki	<wiki.rootsweb.com>
Ancestry Facebook page	<www.facebook.com/AncestryUS>

BY THE NUMBERS

- Founded in 1983
- 20 billion digitized genealogy records, organized into 32,000 collections
- 100 million family trees, with 11 billion profiles
- 10 million DNA kits in database

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership	Cost	Benefits
Registered guest	free (registration required)	Building family trees, using message boards, searching, accessing free records
US Discovery	$19.99/month; $99/six months	All of the above, plus access to premium records
World Explorer	$34.99/month; $149/six months	All of the above, plus access to international records
All-Access	$44.99/month; $199/six months	All of the above, plus access to Fold3 and Newspapers.com
AncestryDNA test	$99/test (though frequently discounted)	Ethnicity estimates and DNA matches; integration with online family tree; downloadable raw data

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treetips

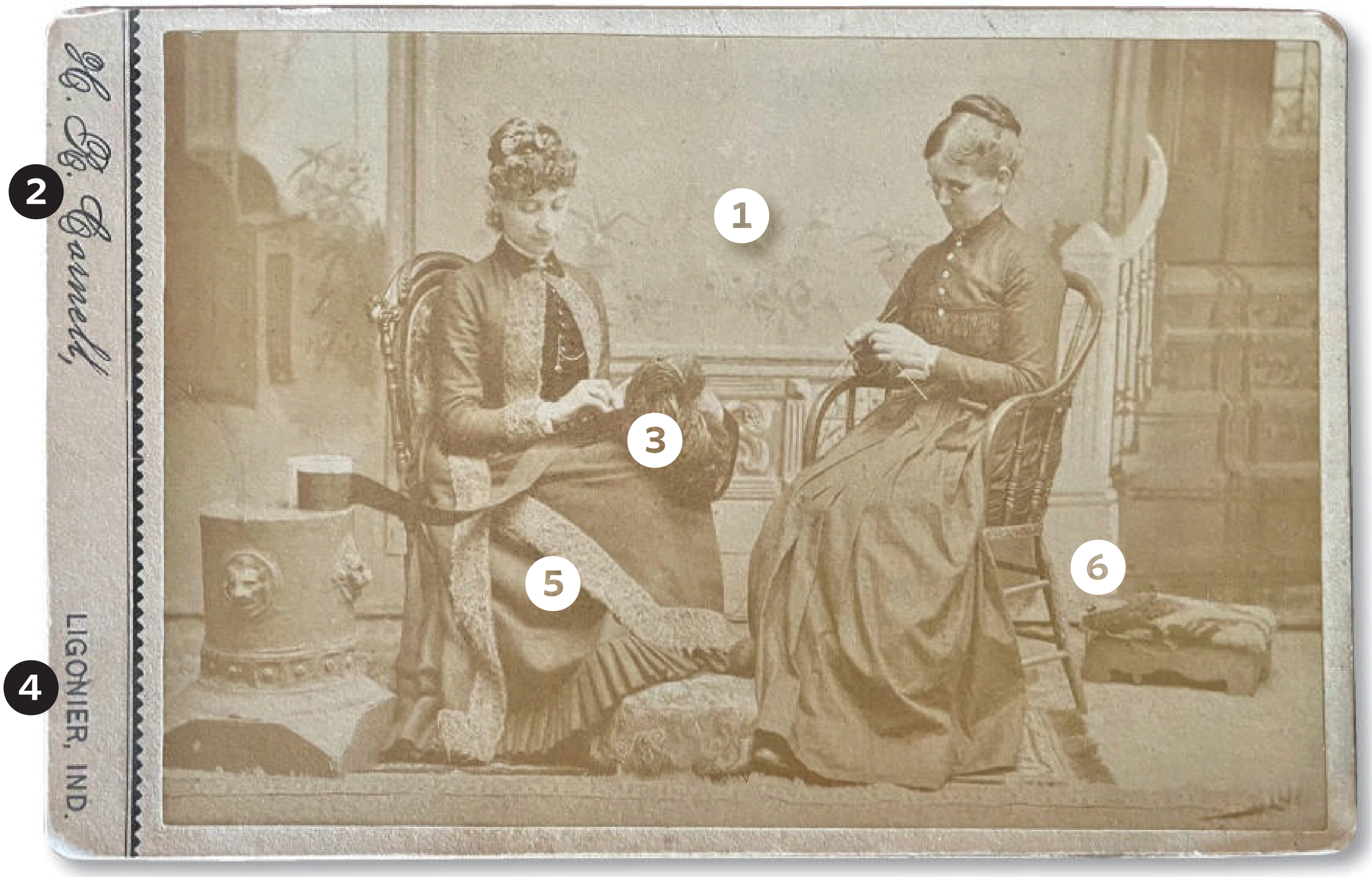
MAX ZED/UNSPLASH

TAKE TIME TO LEARN THE SOCIAL HISTORY of your ancestor's community. Customs around life events informed what records were created, helping you know what documents to look for. (See page 68 for an example: driver's licenses.) And place-based stories and photos at sites like Historypin (page 64) can add color and depth to your family history. Lisa Lesson shares tips for researching social history at <www.familytreemagazine.com/history/social-history-genealogy>.

Knowing how populations interacted at the macro level can also help in genetic genealogy research. See page 71 for an exploration of endogamy, which is when a community intermarries with itself over several generations. ●

Knit One, Purl Two

A photo shows a mother- and daughter-in-law hat-making team at work.



1 Reader Sue Campbell is pretty sure she knows who's in this tableau image—her third-great-grandmother Juliet Brown Domer Pearce (1847–1926), and Juliet's mother-in-law, Cinderella Wells Pearce (1812–1894). Juliet (on the left) works on a hat while Cinderella holds what are possibly knitting needles.

2 The Indiana Album Project <www.indianaalbum.com> maintains a list of Indiana photographers, searchable by name or location. Henry R. Cornell worked as a photographer in Ligonier, Ind., under his name (rather than a studio) from 1865 to 1895.

3 Search genealogical records and local archives for evidence of women's work in your family. Census records, city directories, and her death certificate trace Juliet's occupation as a milliner from around the time of her marriage in 1869 until her death in 1926.

Have a photo mystery you'd like Maureen to investigate? Email FamilyTree@Yankeepub.com with your photo, any details you know about it (including links to online trees), and *Photo Detective* in the subject line, and your question may be selected for a future issue.

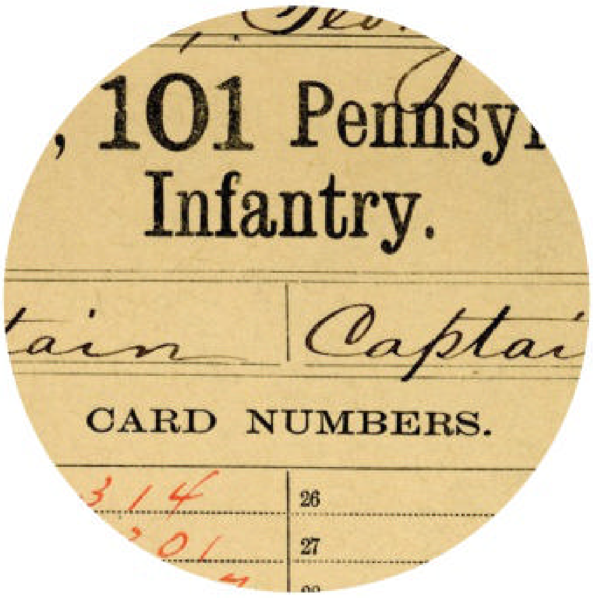
4 Though the photo was taken in Cinderella's town of Ligonier, Juliet's millinery business was in nearby Goshen, Ind. A contemporary railroad map from the Indiana Historical Society <images.indianahistory.org/digital/collection/dc007/id/88> shows that a train ran between the towns, making it easy to visit one from the other.

5 Juliet's stylish wool dress, with a trimmed overskirt and pleated hem, dates from the mid-1880s. Her soft bun and forehead curls were popular in the period. Cinderella's simpler dress is of a lighter fabric with a pleated skirt and front buttons. In the mid-1880s, Juliet was in her 30s and Cinderella in her 60s.

6 The cluttered studio (with a step stool tossed to the side) draws our attention. Juliet sits on a needlepointed upholstered chair, while Cinderella is on a simple spindle chair. The plaster column (which could be used for posing) holds the hat ribbon. Painted backdrops that had a household feel were quite popular in the 1880s. ●

Maureen A. Taylor *is the author of* Family Photo Detective *(Family Tree Books).*

Service Records



U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Have you heard stories about a Revolutionary War or Civil War soldier in your family, but lack documents about him? Military service in the 18th or 19th century can be an important part of your family's story.

Fortunately, the US government realized long ago that it needed a way to keep track of an individual's service—especially when it came time to pay veterans benefits. The resulting compiled military service records, or CMSRs, offer a window of opportunity to genealogists looking for information about men who served in wars prior to 1902.

Keep reading to learn how you might find a CMSR. Note that service during more-recent conflicts—World War I to the present—was documented differently. Records are generally held by the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, and many were destroyed by a fire in 1973.

WHAT'S A CMSR?

A CMSR is an envelope (called a jacket) containing a set of cards that provide an overview of an individual's service in a military company. The jacket is labeled with the soldier's name, rank, military unit and a list of card numbers. The information on each card was taken from some type of original record in which the soldier's name appears, such as an enlistment book, muster roll, hospital roll, descriptive book, prison record, payment voucher or discharge. Some CMSRs, especially those of officers, also may contain personal papers.

In the aftermath of the Civil War, clerks of the War Department Record and Pension Office painstakingly copied information from original records onto the cards to expedite the processing of pension claims. Family historians reap the same benefit today.

Once they finished Union Civil War CMSRs, clerks did the same thing for men who'd served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, 19th-century Indian wars and Mexican-American War. Service records for Confederate soldiers, the Spanish-American War, and the Philippine Insurrection were created a bit later.

CMSRs primarily cover those who served in volunteer military units, typically raised at the local or state level in times of war. With the exception of the Revolutionary War, few CMSRs exist for men who served in the regular Army (career soldiers). Civil War "volunteers" included men who were drafted as well as those who enlisted voluntarily. If your ancestor re-enlisted or served in two different companies during a war, he'll probably have two separate CMSRs.

Though derivative sources, CMSRs have highly reliable information. Accuracy was vital to the government officials who transcribed the data in them, so the original rolls rarely contain more information than was copied into the CMSR.

CLUES IN A CMSR

The number and type of cards included in a CMSR varies from war to war and soldier to soldier. Civil War and later folders tend to be more robust than those from earlier wars.

In addition to the soldier's rank and military unit, you might discover some or all of the following in a CMSR:

- date and place he enlisted
- age at enlistment (which was used as age in all subsequent documentation)
- physical description
- term of enlistment
- date and location he mustered into (joined) the unit
- his presence at regular musters
- notations about illness, wounds or desertion
- date he mustered out (left) the company or died

These bits of data can tell you a good deal about your ancestor's wartime experiences. You might find he stayed in a field hospital due to illness, or learn when he was wounded. If a man was captured by the enemy, deserted, or died while in service, his file should have a reference to it. Any personal papers tucked into the jacket will give you even more details. While service records don't generally name a soldier's parents, you may find hints to help in your search for their identities.

FINDING CMSRS

Depending on the war, your soldier's CMSR may be on microfilm and/or digitized online. If it's not online, you'll need to look up the name in a service records index, then find the record on microfilm or order a copy from NARA. Start with these steps:

Revolutionary War (1775–1783)

Service records were compiled for men who served in the Continental Army, various state and local militia units, and the American naval forces. But many records were destroyed when the British burned Washington, DC, in 1814, and others deteriorated or were lost over the years, so not every man who served has a CMSR. The good news is that all the surviving records have been indexed, microfilmed and digitized.

You can search the complete collection on Fold3 <www.fold3.com/publication/470/revolutionary-war-service-records>. This contains actual images of soldiers' service record jackets and cards, digitized from NARA microfilm. A similar collection <www.fold3.com/publication/789/revolutionary-war-service-records-navy> provides the same access to sailors.

War of 1812 (1812–1815)

During this war, many men enlisted in local or state militias for short stints, and some served in more than one company. The resulting CMSRs are generally thin (sometimes holding only a few cards), but fascinating nonetheless.

Get started with the full index to War of 1812 service records, derived from NARA microfilm number M602, on Ancestry.com <www.ancestry.com/search/collections/4281>. The index includes name, rank, company or regiment, and "roll box" where the CMSR is located at the National Archives.

The CMSRs themselves for this war haven't been microfilmed or digitized. Use the information from the index to order a copy of your ancestor's file from NARA.

Indian Wars (1815–1858) and Mexican-American War (1846–1848)

With the frontier expanding rapidly, skirmishes erupted between settlers and native Indian tribes in several areas. Volunteer armies were raised for the Seminole Wars, Black Hawk War, Creek Wars and other conflicts. Fold3 has digitized the index to service records for these military engagements (from NARA M694) <www.fold3.com/publication/898/indian-wars-service-record-index>.

Fold3 (and FamilySearch) has also digitized an index to Mexican-American War service records <www.fold3.com/publication/871/mexican-war-service-record-index> (from NARA M616). In addition, Fold3, Ancestry.com and FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1987567> have full CMSRs for just a handful of states; you'll need to request records from other states from NARA.

Fast Facts

Coverage: Pre-World War I military conflicts, with notes about service dating to 1775

Jurisdiction where kept: US War Department, maintained by the National Archives

Key details: Soldier's name, age, rank, military unit, dates and places of enlistment and musters, date and place of discharge, sometimes place of birth, physical description

Alternates and substitutes: Draft records, pension records, lineage society applications, bounty land grants, military payrolls and ledgers, soldiers' home records, 1890 special census of Civil War veterans and widows

Civil War (1861–1865)

Civil War service files generally contain more information than those from earlier wars. Types of cards you'll commonly find include:

- Company muster-in or muster-out rolls that identify rank, age, date and place of enlistment, term of enlistment, date and place of mustering in/out, date last paid, and balance owed or due
- Company descriptive books that give enlistment information; color of eyes, hair and complexion; birthplace and occupation
- Company muster rolls that tell whether the soldier was present for the period of time specified on the card (generally two months), along with any remarks

Union Civil War CMSRs are indexed by state, and the files for several states have been microfilmed and/or digitized. All Confederate CMSRs have been digitized.

Whether your ancestor hailed from the North or the South, start with Fold3. Browse by the state where your relative lived at enlistment. Enter the name in the search box, using a middle initial if necessary to narrow the results. If the file is digitized, you'll be able to download it. If only the index card in available, order the file from the National Archives.

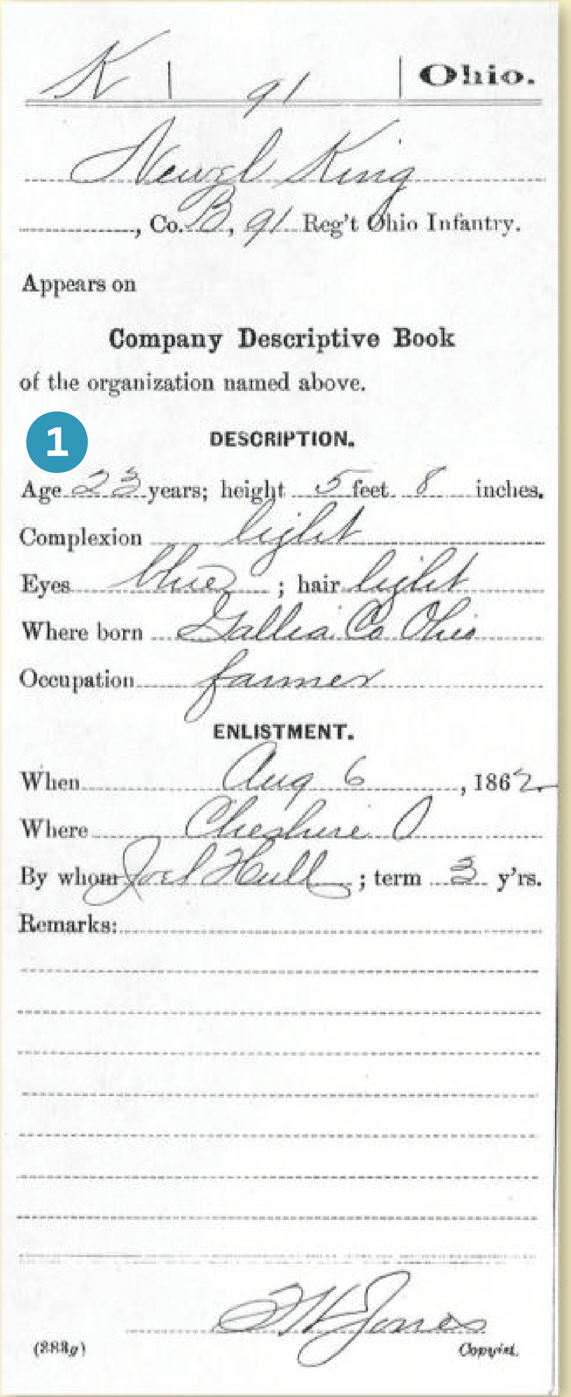
ORDERING A CMSR

All these pre-WWI service records are now held at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) <www.archives.gov> in Washington, D.C.

NARA has an online order form you can use to request a copy of your ancestor's CMSR from any of the wars listed here. Go to <www.archives.gov/forms> and scroll down to "(Pre-WWI) Military Service Records (NATF Form 86)." Select whether you want to order online or mail in the form. You can receive the file electronically as a PDF emailed to you, or in print via postal mail (all for a fee). Orders are estimated to take two or three months to fulfill, though wait times at many archives have been longer due to back-orders associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you don't want to wait that long, you have a complex request, or you don't know exactly which file you need, consider hiring a professional genealogist in the Washington, DC, area. You can find one through the Association of Professional Genealogists <www.apgen.org> or the Board for Certification of Genealogists <www.bcgcertification.org>.

At a Glance: Civil War Service Record



K | 91 | **Ohio.**

Newel King

........., Co. B, 91 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on

Company Descriptive Book

of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION.

Age 23 years; height 5 feet 8 inches.

Complexion light

Eyes blue ; hair light

Where born Gallia Co Ohio

Occupation farmer

ENLISTMENT.

When Aug 6, 1862.

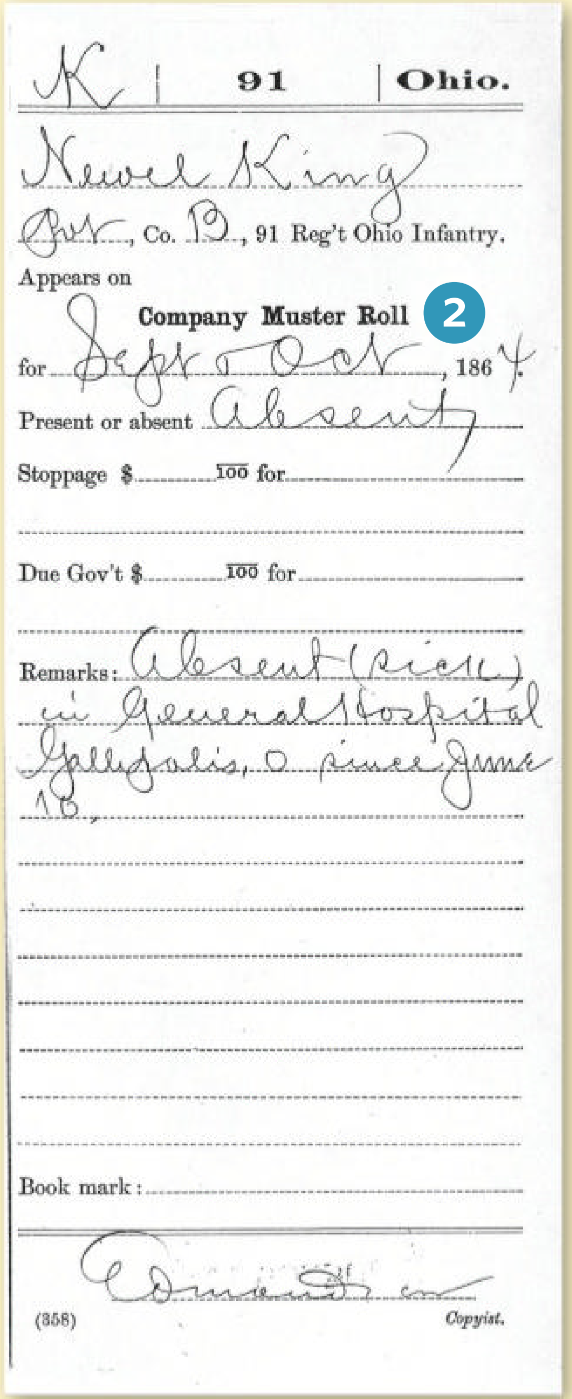
Where Cheshire O

By whom Joel Hull ; term 3 y'rs.

Remarks:

F H James

(288g) *Copyist.*



K | 91 | **Ohio.**

Newel King

Pvt, Co. B, 91 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

for Sept & Oct, 1864.

Present or absent Absent

Stoppage $ $\frac{}{100}$ for

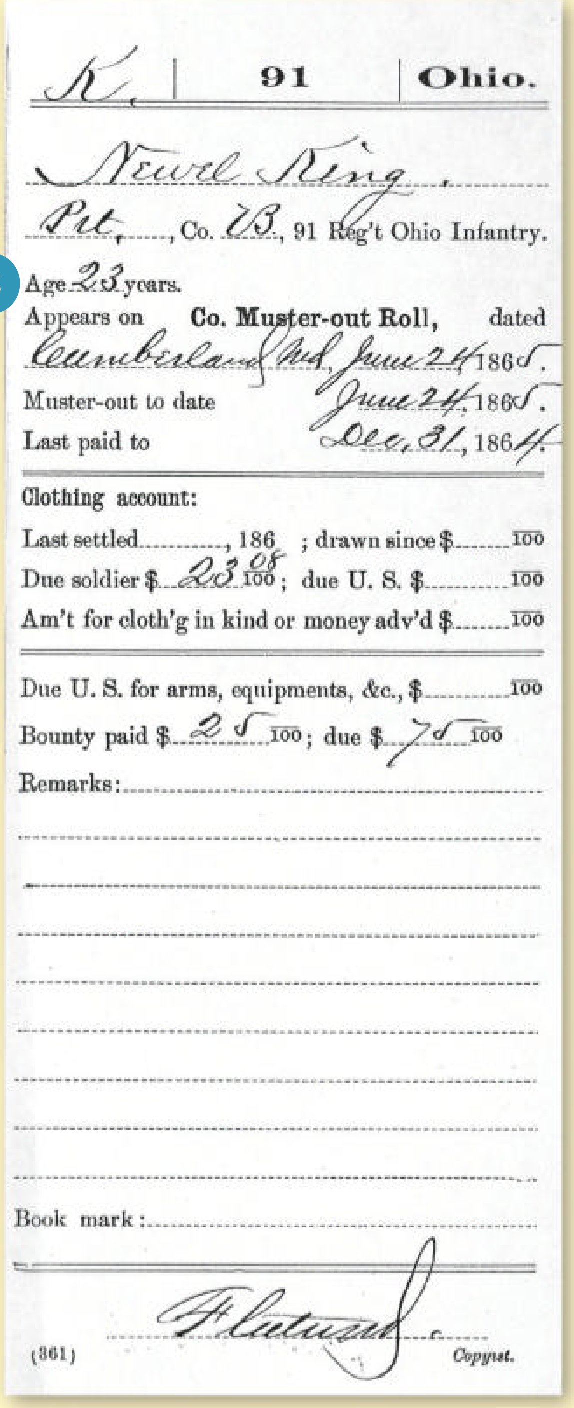
Due Gov't $ $\frac{}{100}$ for

Remarks: Absent (sick) in General Hospital Gallipolis, O since June 18,

Book mark:

Duncan

(358) *Copyist.*



K. | 91 | **Ohio.**

Newel King.

Pvt, Co. B, 91 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Age 23 years.

Appears on **Co. Muster-out Roll,** dated

Cumberland Md, June 24, 1865.

Muster-out to date June 24, 1865.

Last paid to Dec. 31, 1864.

Clothing account:

Last settled ...., 186 ; drawn since $ $\frac{}{100}$

Due soldier $ 23 $\frac{08}{100}$; due U. S. $ $\frac{}{100}$

Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd $ $\frac{}{100}$

Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., $ $\frac{}{100}$

Bounty paid $ 25 $\frac{}{100}$; due $ 75 $\frac{}{100}$

Remarks:

Book mark:

F Latuzard

(361) *Copyist.*

Citation: Compiled service record, Newel King, Pvt., Co. B, 91st Ohio Infantry; Carded Records, Volunteer Organizations, Civil War; Record Group 94: Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1782–1917, National Archives, Washington, DC.

1 The Company Descriptive Book section of Newel King's CMSR shows he was 23 when he enlisted 6 August 1862. This gives an approximate birth year of 1839. The card also states his place of birth: Gallia County, Ohio. These clues could lead to his parents' names.

2 The jacket contains several company muster roll cards. This one, for September and October 1864, reports Newel was absent from the company because he'd been hospitalized for illness.

3 The company muster-out roll shows Newel was discharged 24 June 1865 in Cumberland, Md. Note that his age was still 23 years; the military used the same age throughout a man's term of service as a means of identification.

Read an extended version of this guide—including information on the Spanish-American War and a bonus sample CMSR from the Revolutionary War—at <www.familytreemagazine.com/records/military/military-service-records-workbook>.

Then again, perhaps you want to visit NARA to retrieve your ancestor's file in person. Plan ahead for your trip using the resources at <www.archives.gov/research>. You must schedule an appointment to access research rooms.

USING CMSRS AND INDEXES

Indexes to service records often show more than one man of the same name from the same state. Particularly if the name is common, it can be a challenge to determine which one is your ancestor. First identify the veteran in pension records, which also name military unit, wives or other family members. Those details might help you identify the right serviceman.

Compare details in a service record index with your other genealogical information. Does his age in the CMSR correspond with his age in censuses? What about his location? Men typically joined units that formed close to home, often with neighbors. To find the names of units raised in a county, check local histories and consolidated state lists. A web search on the company name or number also can help you find out where its members lived.

Once you've obtained the right CMSR, squeeze every detail out of it. Begin by sorting the cards in rough chronological order: first the muster-in roll and descriptive book cards, then the muster cards in order, followed by the muster-out card. Transcribe the information into a word document or spreadsheet to get an overview of your soldier's service.

Then look for clues to other documents. A place of birth and age at time of enlistment can lead you to a birth year, which you can use to find related census, church, probate and land records. Those might give you the names of possible parents and other relatives.

To research your ancestor's wartime experiences more deeply, find published histories of the regiment or company he served in. WorldCat <www.worldcat.org> can help you find books in libraries.

Learning about your ancestor's military service is exciting and enlightening. With the availability of online indexes and databases, it's easier than ever to find this piece of your family history puzzle. ●

Shelley K. Bishop

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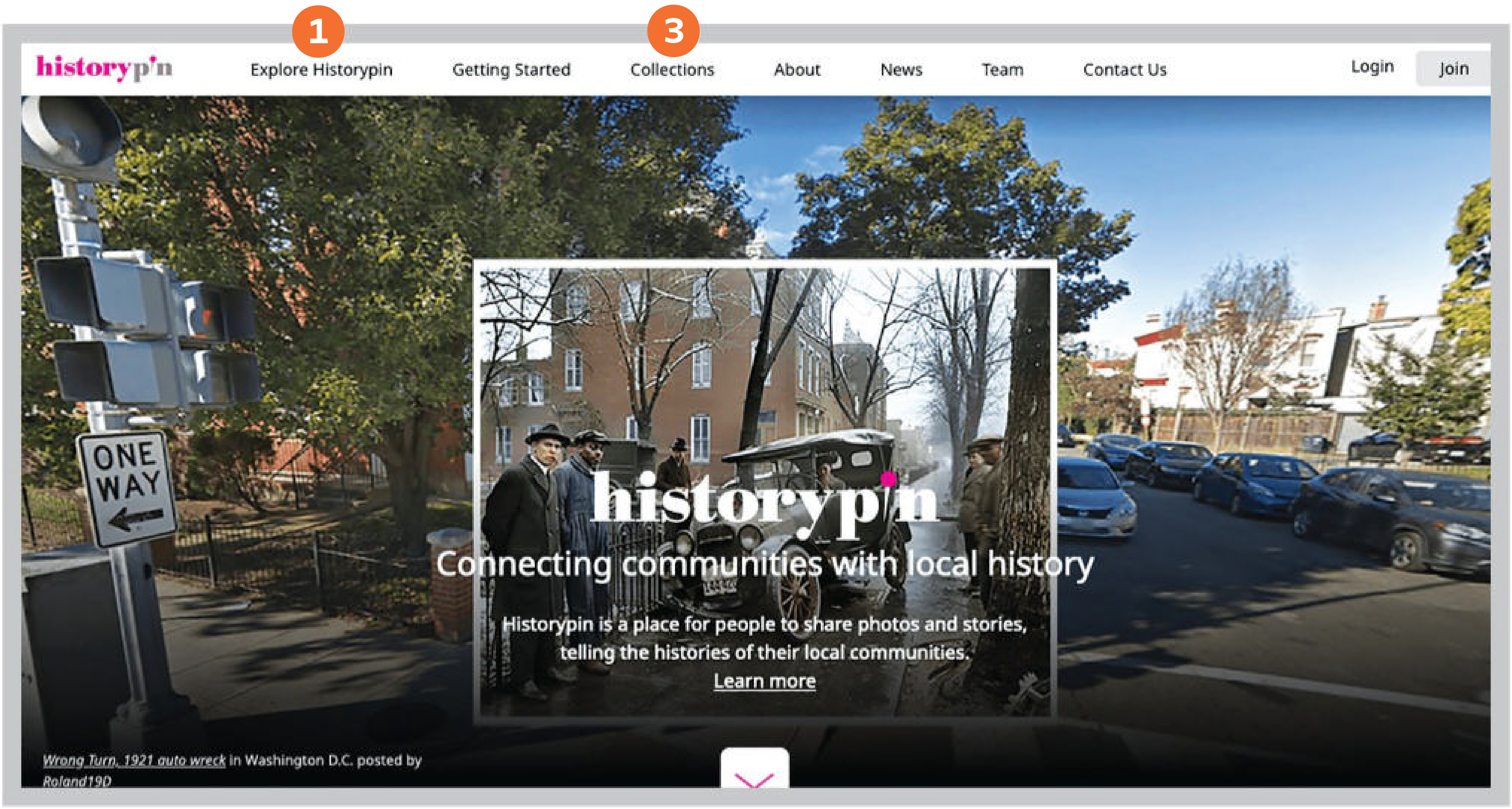
Sunny Jane Morton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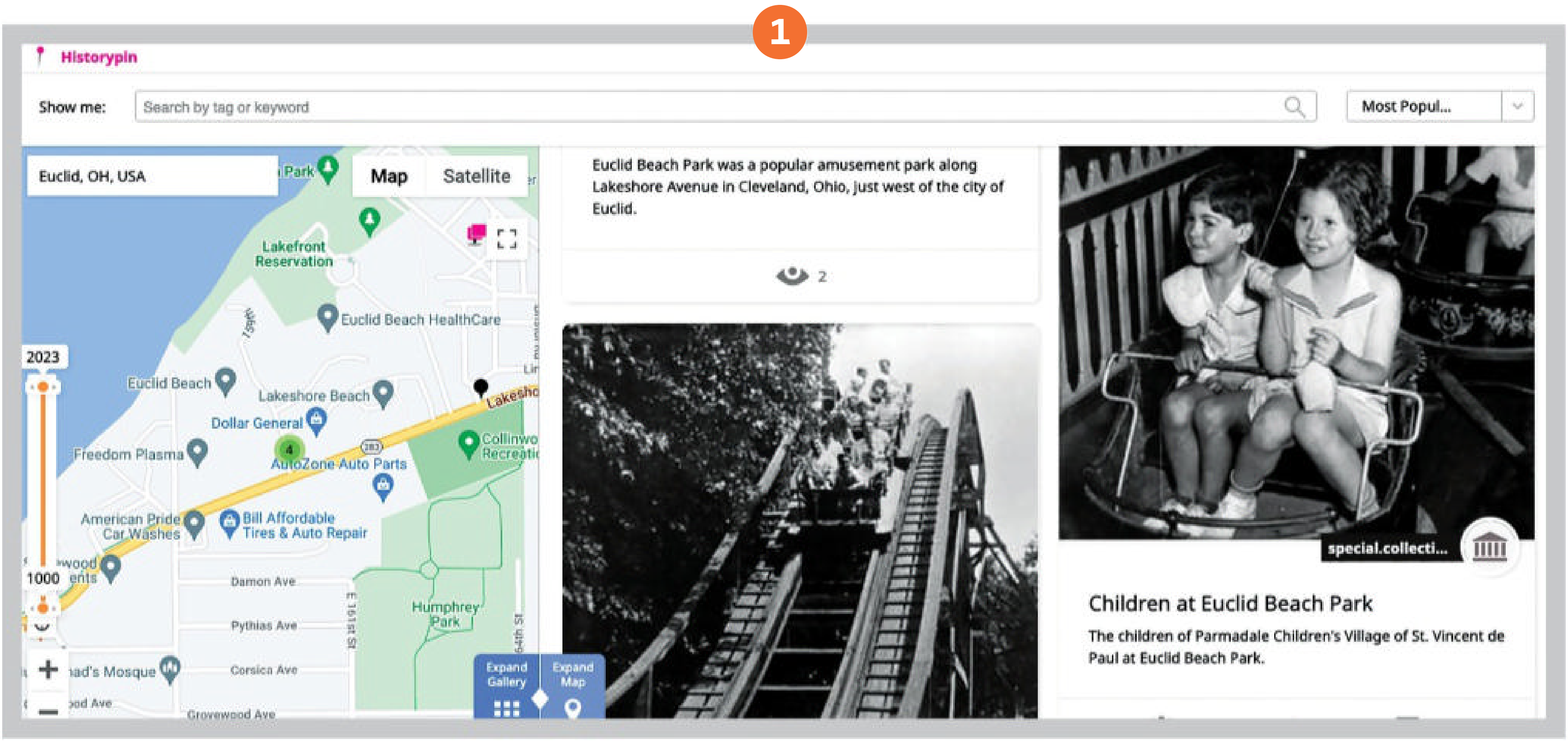

1
Historypin
Show me:
Search by tag or keyword
Most Popul...
Euclid, OH, USA
Map
Satellite
Lakefront Reservation
Euclid Beach HealthCare
Euclid Beach
Lakeshore Beach
Dollar General
Freedom Plasma
AutoZone Auto Parts
American Pride Car Washes
Bill Affordable Tires & Auto Repair
Humphrey Park
Damon Ave
Pythias Ave
Corsica Ave
Grovewood Ave
2023
1000
Expand Gallery
Expand Map
2
special.collecti...

Euclid Beach Park was a popular amusement park along Lakeshore Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, just west of the city of Euclid.

Children at Euclid Beach Park

The children of Parmadale Children's Village of St. Vincent de Paul at Euclid Beach Park.

1 Under Explore Historypin, search by location. (I find place-searches to be more reliable than keyword-searches, which can be hit or miss.) I start typing *Euclid*, and the drop-down suggests *Euclid, OH, USA*.

The search doesn't return any pins immediately, so I zoom out. More begin to populate—the closest one brings me to four pins all next to each other, overlaid on a modern Google map so I can see in context where they are.

2 I can click on individual pins (either on the map or in the gallery at right) to learn more about them. "Hale Family at Euclid Beach Park" in Cleveland includes a description of an historical photo, plus tags that add them to various collections and a date of 1912. Scrolling down farther, I see that this pin is part of three collections that might be of interest to me.

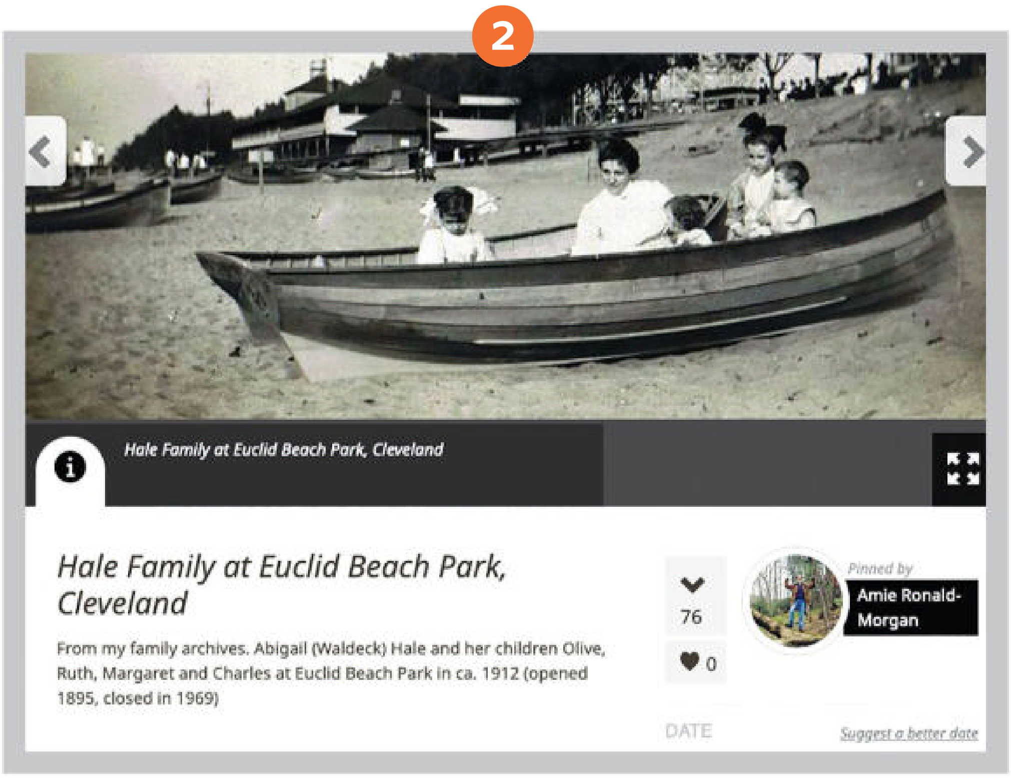
Under Pin Metadata is copyright information (in case I have an interest in using the photo elsewhere). The pin also includes any comments or stores added by other users, but this one doesn't have any yet.

3 You can also search for specific collections, including those you've created. Under the Collections tab, search for a keyword or place. Click a result to view the pins and a corresponding map.

I created a collection for Olyphant, Pa., where my husband's great-grandfather lived. Many of the pins I added are related to his occupation (firefighter): old footage of him and his fire truck, a picture of the family's church across the street, photos of the fire company, and even a plaque honoring them. From just a few items, a story about the fire company begins to emerge.

4 Let me show you one of my favorite parts of Historypin. If you see a pin that has a small yellow person in the corner, that means the pin has been tagged to Google Street View. Click it, and you'll see where the image is exactly compared to a modern location. You can even use the slider to make the picture fade away—it almost gives me chills to have them standing there or disappear. ●

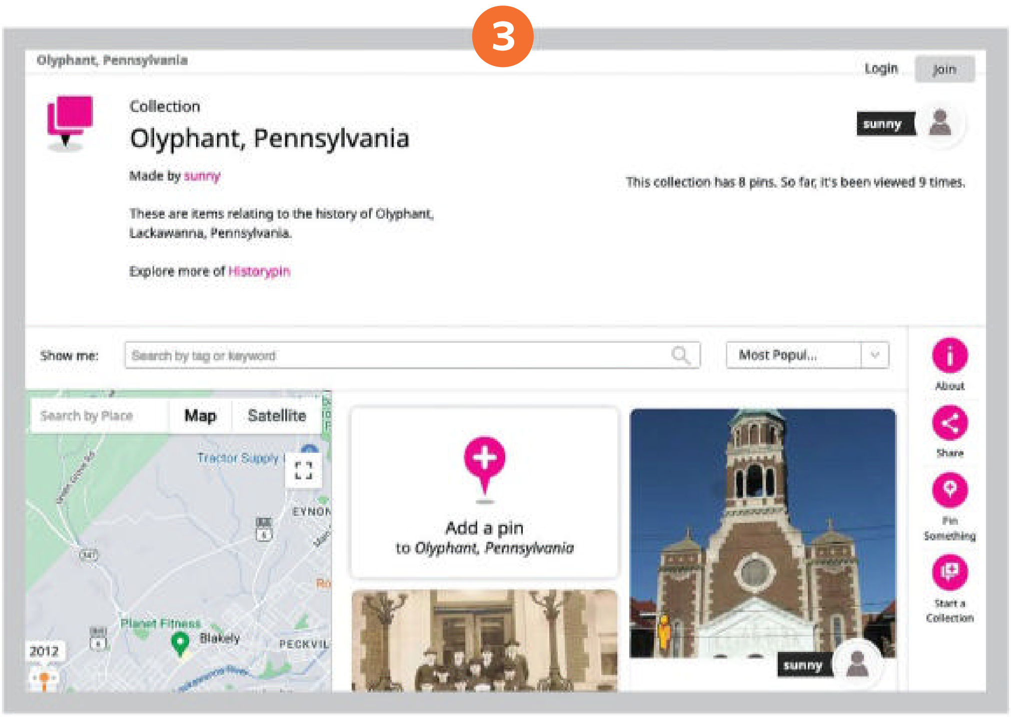
2


Hale Family at Euclid Beach Park, Cleveland
76
0
Pinned by
Amie Ronald-Morgan
DATE
Suggest a better date

Hale Family at Euclid Beach Park, Cleveland

From my family archives. Abigail (Waldeck) Hale and her children Olive, Ruth, Margaret and Charles at Euclid Beach Park in ca. 1912 (opened 1895, closed in 1969)

3


Olyphant, Pennsylvania
Login
Join
sunny
Show me:
Search by tag or keyword
Most Popul...
About
Share
Pin Something
Start a Collection
Search by Place
Map
Satellite
Tractor Supply
EYNON
Planet Fitness
Blakely
PECKVIL
2012
Add a pin
to Olyphant, Pennsylvania
sunny

Collection

Olyphant, Pennsylvania

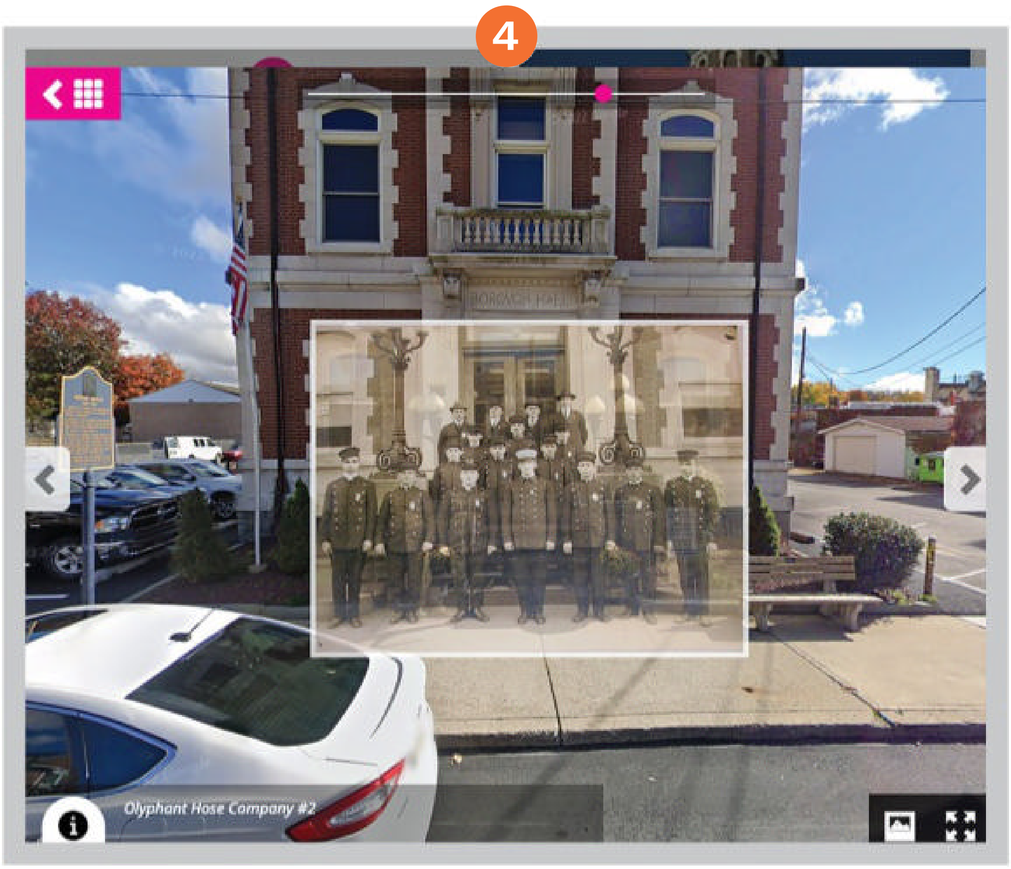
Made by sunny

This collection has 8 pins. So far, it's been viewed 9 times.

These are items relating to the history of Olyphant, Lackawanna, Pennsylvania.

Explore more of Historypin

4


Olyphant Hose Company #2

Preserving Shoes and Footware

1 **Clean selectively.** Sometimes a shoe's memories are in the wear-and-tear, and you'll want to resist the urge to purge *all* signs of use. But dirt and debris can attract destructive pests, so remove surface dirt (inside and out) with a soft brush before storing.

2 **Avoid inserts.** Do not insert shoe trees, which can put stress on old fibers and leather. Instead, stuff each shoe gently with polyester batting or acid-free tissue paper. Wrap shoes individually with more batting or tissue and place inside an acid-free box.

3 **Store appropriately.** Place wrapped shoes in a dark, cool, dry, location with stable temperature (60° to 70 °F) and moderate humidity (40 to 50%). Label the outside of the box with descriptive comments including owner's name, why the shoes are significant, and the date of storage.

4 **Check for leather.** Athletic shoes, cowboy boots, and golf shoes may be worn for different events, but they all have one thing in common: They're made from animal leather. Different tanning methods result in different levels of durability, so check shoe surfaces for cracking, rot or flaking. If the leather is in bad shape, seek out a leather-repair shop or conservator. But if it's in good shape, dust the surface with a soft brush and use a soft cloth moistened with distilled water to clean further. (Conservators don't recommend leather dressing because it can make the surface greasy and attract dust and insects.) Rinse and blot dry.

5 **Display your footwear.** Memorable shoes can be displayed "as is," but expect some deterioration from less-than-museum conditions. Light level is the main consideration: Store in low light, preferably inside a sealed acrylic or glass display box to minimize dust and handling. Look for an appropriate size case with UV-filtering glazing from archival suppliers such as Gaylord Archival <www.gaylord.com>.

6 **Get crafty.** A single shoe makes an unusual paperweight, and a pair can be mounted as bookends. Clever Etsy <www.etsy.com> crafters offer converting shoes into a lamp base, or you can drill a small hole in a tiny pewter shoe to create a one-of-a-kind Christmas tree ornament.

7 **Consider bronzing,** which isn't just for baby shoes anymore. Today, you can have cowboy boots, sneakers or ballet slippers preserved in precious metals. Bronzing, also called electroplating, applies a layer of pure, oxidized, polished copper (or silver or gold) to an item. Never wrap bronzed, silver or gold items in plastic cling wrap, which can destroy the finish. A gentle dusting with a soft cloth is all that's needed. Note that some crafters may incorrectly offer "bronzing" using a color lacquer or resin; look for *electroplating* instead. For inspiration, see The Bronzery <www.bronzery.com>.

8 **Consider acrylic** as an alternative to bronzing. The process coats the item with a high-gloss sealant that creates a finish that resists further deterioration while also preserving footwear's color and scuff marks. Clear Preservations <www.clearpreservations.com> offers one option. ●

Denise May Levenick
aka The Family Curator <www.thefamilycurator.com> is the author of How to Archive Family Keepsakes *(Family Tree Books).*

FACING PAGE: JULIE BARNETT; WITH BRUSH: ELEGANZAISTOCK; BROWN OXFORD: JULIE BARNETT; BOOT: SDPHOTOGRAPHYISTOCK; SNEAKERS: MOTIMEIRIISTOCK; BRONZE: SFRAMEPHOTOISTOCK

Q My ancestor in 1920s Minnesota got married under an assumed name. Wouldn't he have had to show ID, like a driver's license?

A It's true that people drove cars before the 1920s, and some places required licenses to do so—which could also double as identification. But Minnesota didn't require driver's licenses until 1933, or exams for driver competency until 1948.

The state was hardly alone in slow adoption of licenses. Even by 1935, only about two-thirds of states required them to drive, and South Dakota (the last state to do so) didn't require driver's licenses until 1954. (To check the licensing history of your ancestor's state, see <www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/summary95/dl230.pdf>.)

The first statewide license requirements came in 1903 in Missouri and Massachusetts. Rhode Island instituted the first statewide driver's license examinations in 1908.

In 1907, the *New York Times* opined, "Little attention has yet been paid to the right of any man to drive a car." The piece quoted a member of the Automobile Club of America: "Something akin to the French system, which is the ideal plan of licensing drivers, furnishing them

Have a question you'd like David to answer? Email FamilyTree @Yankeepub.com with *Now What* in the subject line, and your question may be selected for a future issue.

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KATIE REBECCA GARNER GENEAOLGY

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with official cards with the penalty of revoking the license in addition to a jail sentence for a second or third serious offense, must be enacted in this country." Not until 1924, however, did New York State require all drivers (not just chauffeurs) to be licensed.

The National Conference on Street and Highway Safety issued its first edition of the Uniform Vehicle Code in 1926. It recommended that drivers as young as 16 receive permits to drive in the company of a licensed adult.

Generally, driver's license and driving records in each state can only be accessed by the driver or with the driver's written permission. That makes them not very useful for genealogy research.

Q After coming to the United States from Germany in 1872, my great-grandfather changed his last name to Parker. How can I find his German surname?

A To decode a German immigrant's original surname, it helps to understand why names got changed in the first place. Surnames may have been misspelled on passenger lists, or "Americanized" by officials or the immigrant himself.

Some German letters are pronounced differently than in English or are silent, and some special characters aren't found in English. Others are easily confused by English speakers (*b* and *p*, *v* and *f*, *d* and *t*/*th*). So *Müller* became Mueller and *Schneider* became Snyder. Other surnames were shortened for simplicity, such as *Apfelbaum* to Apple. In times of anti-German sentiment, surnames got translated—*Schwartz* to Black, *Fuchs* to Fox.

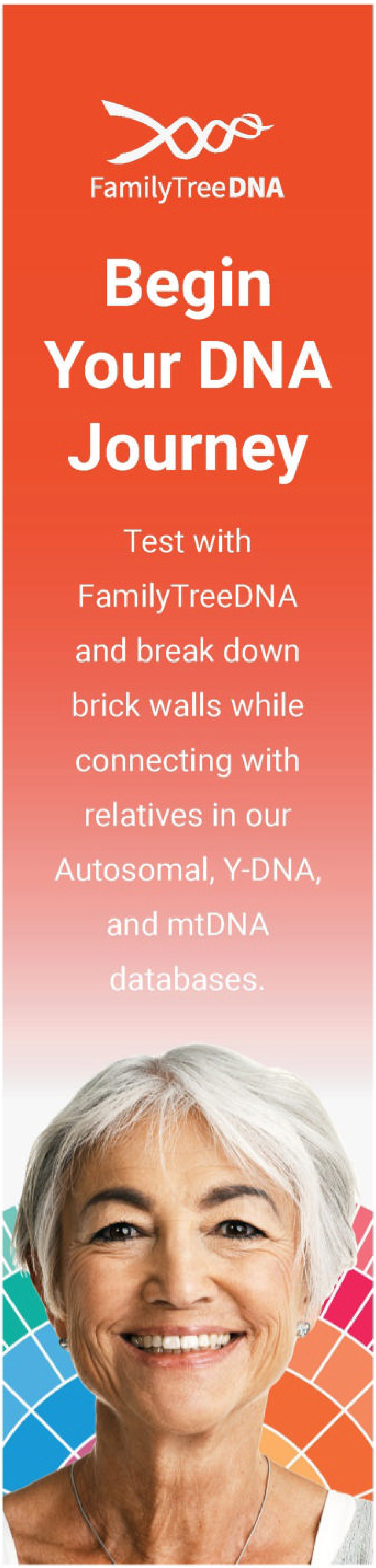
When seeking an original German surname, keep in mind that the most-common names came from occupations: *Müller* means "miller," *Schmidt* means "smith," and so on.

"Parker" comes from Middle English for "park keeper"; the literal German translation would be *Parkwächter*. Other German surnames have geographic origins—Parker could come from *Prager*, meaning from Prague. Surnames starting with *P* are relatively uncommon in Germany, however, so it's also possible your ancestor simply chose a surname from scratch.

Check to see if anyone traveling with him had a different surname that might be the original—not all relatives changed surnames. Look for family, friends and neighbors listed with an individual who had your ancestor's first name (or similar) and matches his birthdate or age. Scour old letters and family papers for mention of a German surname.

For a guide to German surnames, see <www.familytreemagazine.com/names/surnames/german-surnames>. For more on name changes, visit the German Marylanders site at <www.germanmarylanders.org/miscellaneous-a-to-z/family-name-changes>. ●

David A. Fryxell *is a contributing editor of* Family Tree Magazine *and the author of* The Family Tree Guide to Scandinavian Genealogy *(Family Tree Books) and* MicroHistory *(Continental Divide Publishing).*



FamilyTreeDNA

Begin Your DNA Journey

Test with FamilyTreeDNA and break down brick walls while connecting with relatives in our Autosomal, Y-DNA, and mtDNA databases.

Sites for Finding Heirlooms

1 AbeBooks
<www.abebooks.com>
Look here for copies of publications such as family histories or yearbooks. Run a keyword search, then drill down to the Manuscripts & Paper Collectibles product type for handwritten documents, postcards, ticket stubs and other ephemera. You might also enjoy browsing entries for original sheet music, maps and photographs.

2 eBay
<www.ebay.com>
This quintessential online "garage sale" offers a searchable portal to millions of vintage and historical items. Watch for yearbooks, memorabilia, church cookbooks, postcards or products produced by your family business or employer. Experiment with searches (*surname*, *town*); save your favorites to be alerted to future listings.

3 Etsy
<www.etsy.com>
Best known as a marketplace for handcrafted goods, you'll also find vintage items such as yearbooks, clothing, jewelry, accessories, photos, postcards and more. Searches for *ephemera* and *junk journal* yield an endless variety of old paper goods. It's also a great option for finding heirloom "surrogates" for creative display.

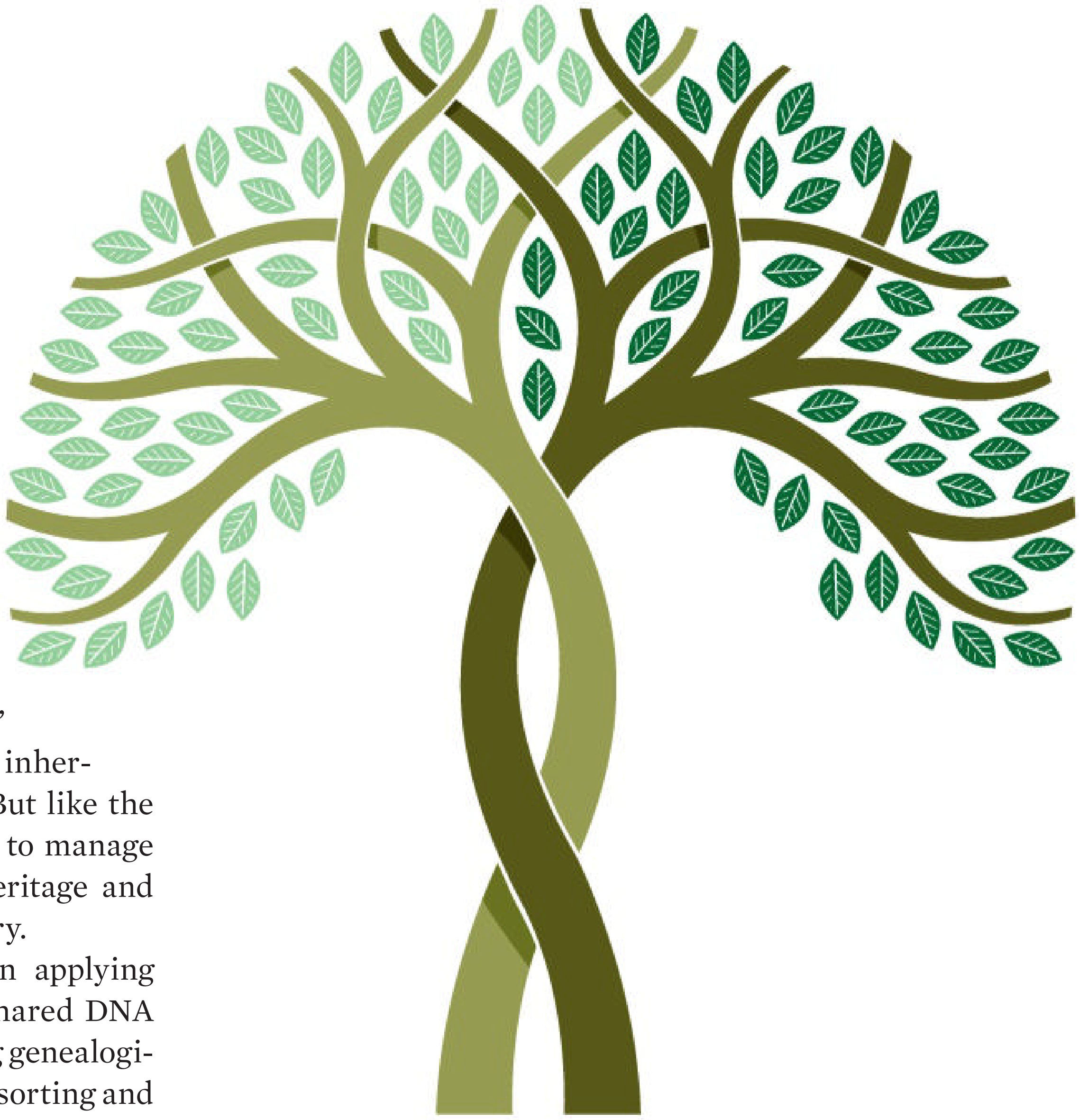
4 Facebook Marketplace
<www.facebook.com/marketplace>
More focused on quick turnaround for local and household goods, this is not as strong a resource for specific historical items. But you might get lucky, especially if you're just shopping for collectibles, furniture or memorabilia that reminds you of Grandma's house.

5 Heritage Auctions
<www.ha.com>
If you love higher-end historical items, explore this online auction house. Shop for rare books, art, antiques, coins, stamps, comics, jewelry and more. In the Historical Memorabilia category, you'll find automotive, Civil War and other military, Americana, historical manuscripts, Judaica, and even Texana listings. Check the auction calendar and learn how to shop here under Bid/Buy. ●

BOOKS: PRATEEK KATYAL/UNSPLASH; POSTCARDS: BECKY PHAN/UNSPLASH; SEWING MACHINE: ANNIE SPRATT, UNSPLASH

DNA Q&A

Endogamy and DNA Research



JOHNWOODCOCK

Q **What is endogamy and how can I overcome it?**

A Endogamy is the process of marriage within the same group of people over and over and over again. Jewish, Acadian and island populations (including Ireland) are all good examples of endogamous groups, as are many small insular towns where residents lived for generations.

First, let's be clear: You cannot "overcome" endogamy any more than you can overcome an inherited cleft chin or curly hair. It's here to stay. But like the curly hair, there are techniques you can learn to manage (and make the most of) your endogamous heritage and harness the power of DNA in your family history.

You'll encounter two main problems when applying DNA to endogamous groups: the amount of shared DNA you have with matches not accurately reflecting genealogical relationships, and the resulting difficulty in sorting and grouping matches. Both have workarounds.

PROBLEM 1: Shared DNA

DNA relationships are measured in centimorgans (cMs), and DNA matches are presented to you alongside a shared-cM value. That constitutes your *genetic* relationship with a DNA match, which you can use to determine a corresponding *genealogical* relationship.

The same genetic relationship can often result in multiple genealogical relationships, however. Based only on shared DNA, you and a DNA match could be related in one of multiple ways. For example, you and a match who shares 100 cMs could be third cousins, second cousins once removed, half-second cousins, and so on. You'll need to conduct more-traditional genealogical research to determine which is correct.

Endogamy makes this even more complicated. Because of generations of intermarriage in endogamous communities, you'll often share more DNA with a relative than you normally would. For example, third cousins usually share about 75 cMs. But if you have endogamous roots, that same third cousin might share 250 cMs with you; that would normally put them in the *second*-cousin range. To sum up: Endogamy makes genetic relationships look closer than they should be.

The Workaround: If your testing company offers a chromosome browser, use it to count shared segments of DNA that are longer than 15 cMs. Then, include only those long segments in your total when calculating a relationship using shared DNA.

PROBLEM 2: Grouping Matches

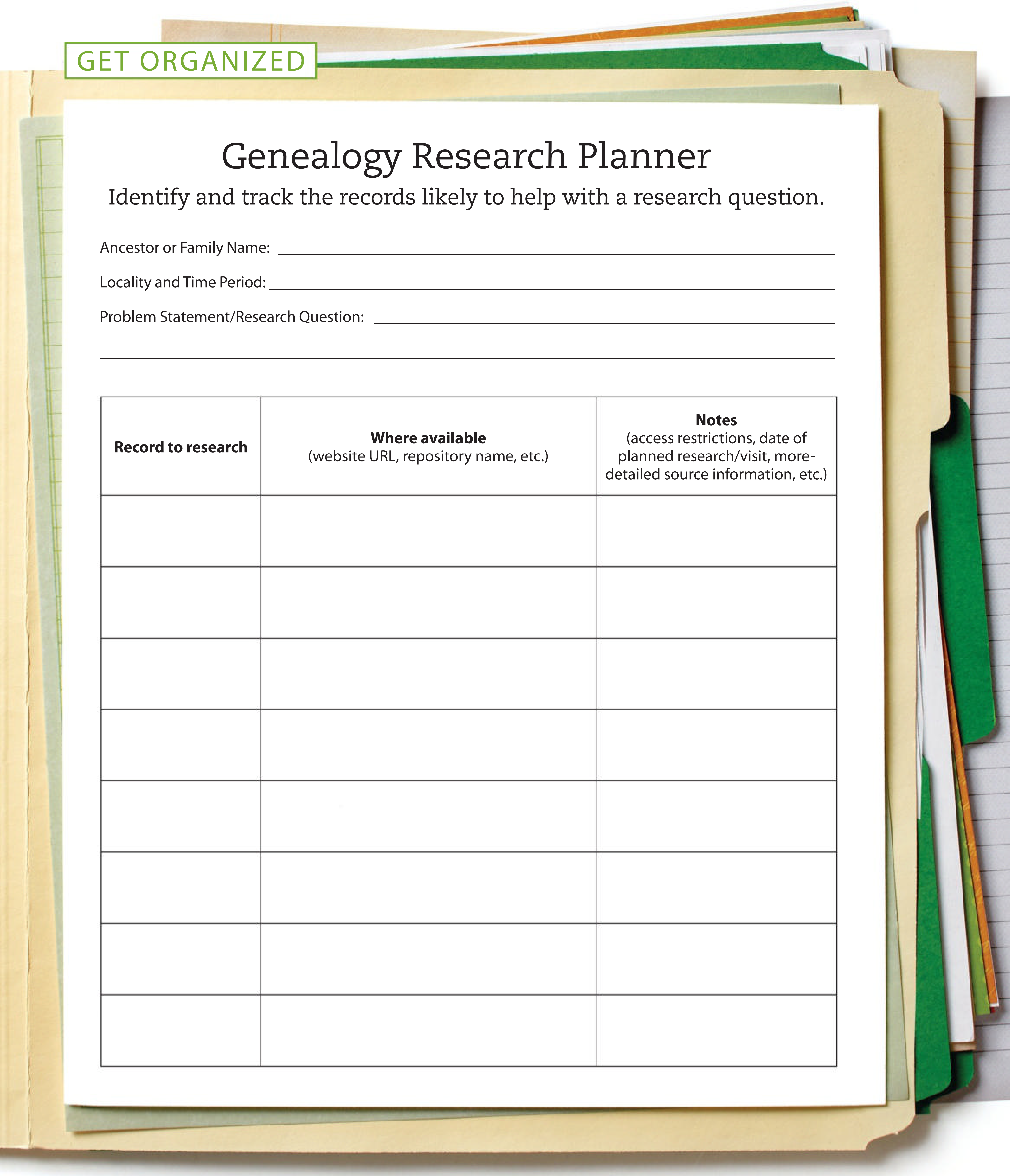
In a similar way, endogamy presents challenges when trying to sort your DNA matches by family group. Many popular techniques rely on family lines being genetically distinct from each other. If yours aren't distinct, these grouping techniques won't work for you.

The Workaround: Instead of trying to isolate matches by family line, focus on your best matches as measured by the largest longest segment. These are the most worthy of your time.

If you want to learn more about using DNA in your endogamy research, you can join my "Endogamy & DNA" class <www.yourdnaguide.com/theacademy>. ●

Diahan Southard

GET ORGANIZED



Genealogy Research Planner

Identify and track the records likely to help with a research question.

Ancestor or Family Name: ____________________

Locality and Time Period: ____________________

Problem Statement/Research Question: ____________________

____

Record to research	**Where available** (website URL, repository name, etc.)	**Notes** (access restrictions, date of planned research/visit, more-detailed source information, etc.)

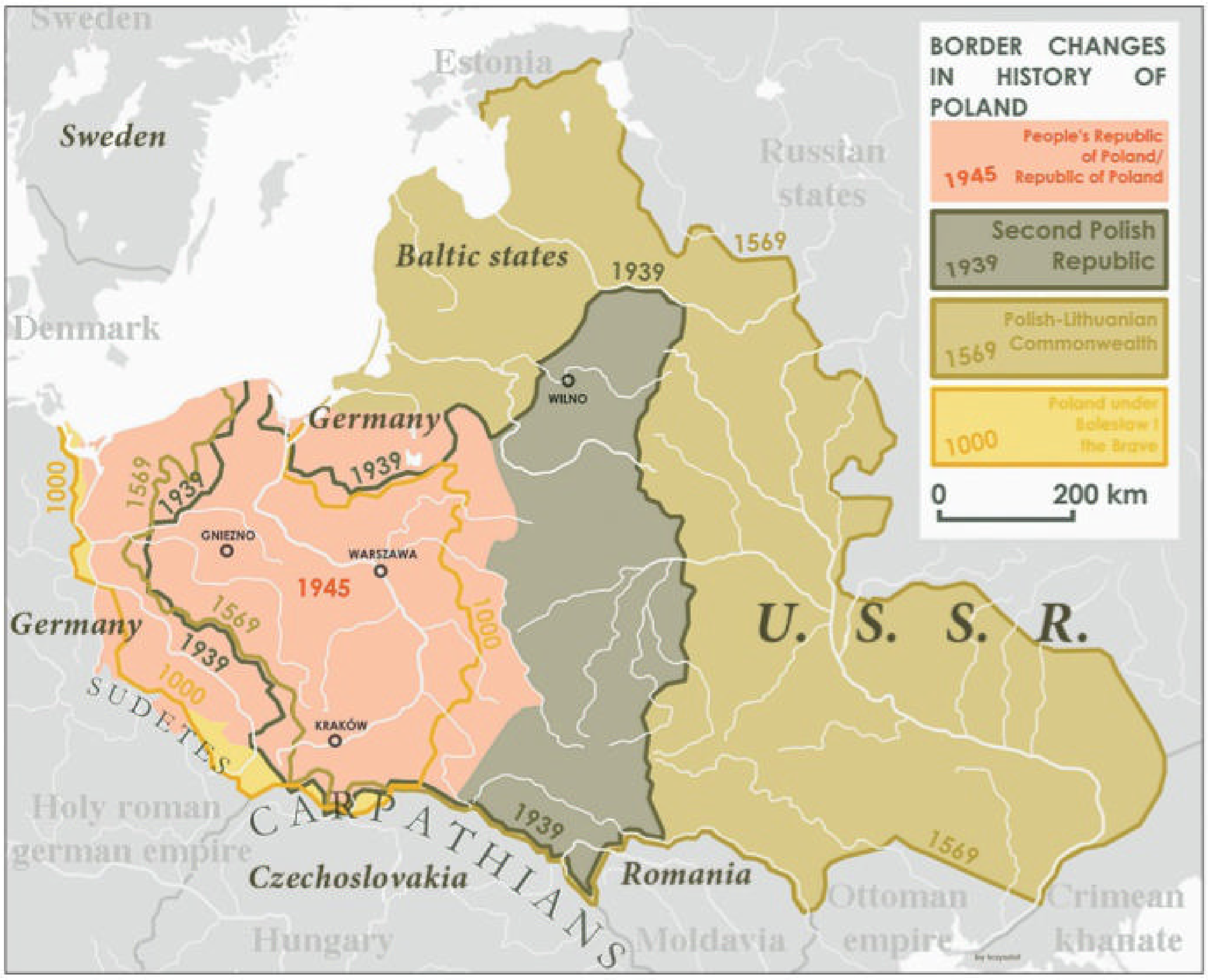
In each issue, **Your Turn** offers a form that'll help you preserve your family's unique stories and organize your research. Tear out and use the form or make a photocopy.

CHEAT
SHEET

POLISH GENEALOGY

COMPILED BY LISA A. ALZO AND ANDREW KOCH

Geography Quick Guide


BORDER CHANGES IN HISTORY OF POLAND
1945 People's Republic of Poland/ Republic of Poland
1939 Second Polish Republic
1569 Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth
1000 Poland under Bolesław I the Brave
0 200 km
Sweden
Estonia
Russian states
Baltic states
Denmark
Germany
WILNO
GNIEZNO
WARSZAWA
KRAKÓW
1945
1939
1569
1000
U. S. S. R.
SUDETES
CARPATHIANS
Holy roman german empire
Czechoslovakia
Hungary
Romania
Moldavia
Ottoman empire
Crimean khanate

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ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

POLAND	
Division	**Notes**
powiat (plural: *powiaty*)	County; 300-plus counties today
województwo (plural: *województwa*)	Voivodeship (province); 16 voivodeships today
AUSTRIAN PARTITION (CENTRAL AND EASTERN POLAND)	
Division	**Notes**
powiat (plural: *powiaty*)	County
RUSSIAN PARTITION (SOUTHEASTERN POLAND)	
Division	**Notes**
guberniya (plural: *guberniyas*)	Province/governate
ujedz (plural: *ujezds*)	County
PRUSSIAN PARTITION (WESTERN POLAND)	
Division	**Notes**
kreis (plural: *kreise*)	District

tip

Because "Poland" didn't exist as a country for several years, your Polish ancestor's birthplace may be listed in records either as the country it was then part of or a descriptor (such as "Russian Poland").

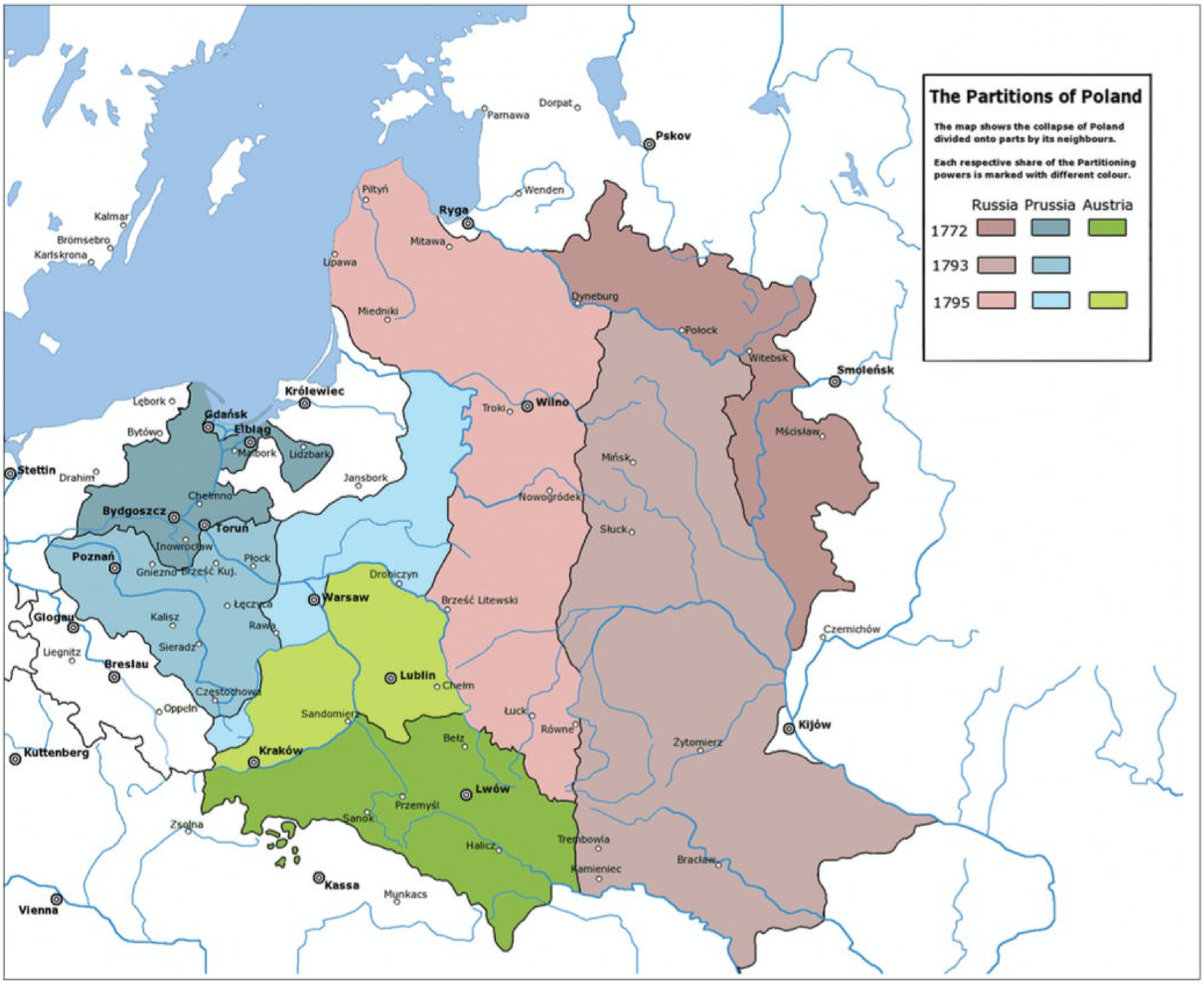
RECORD OFFICES

English name	Polish name with archive location(s)
National Archives	Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów: Warszawa (Warsaw)
Regional archives	*archiwum państwowe*: • Białystok • Bydgoszcz • Częstochowa • Gdańsk • Gorzów Wielkopolski • Kalisz • Katowice • Kielce • Koszalin • Kraków • Leszno • Łódź • Lublin • Malbork • Olsztyn • Opole • Piotrków Trybunalski • Płock • Poznań • Przemyśl • Radom • Rzeszów • Siedlce • Suwałki • Szczecin • Toruń • Warszawa/Warsaw • Wrocław • Zamość • Zielona Góra
Regional archives branch	*oddział*: • Numerous, located in towns surrounding regional archives
Local vital registry office	*urzad dtanu cywilnego*: • Numerous scattered throughout country

THE PARTITIONS OF POLAND

This chart and map show how the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was split between its neighbors in each of three partitions in the late 18th century—and which country each territory became part of.

	1772	1793	1795
Prussia	• Royal Prussia minus Gdańsk/Danzig and Toruń *(becoming West Prussia)* • northern Great Poland north of the Noteć River *(becoming the Netze District, then part of West Prussia)*	• the cities of Gdańsk/Danzig and Toruń • the rest of Great Poland *(becoming South Prussia)* • part of Mazovia *(becoming South Prussia)*	• the rest of Mazovia, including Warsaw *(becoming South Prussia and New Silesia)* • Lithuania west of the Neman River *(becoming New East Prussia)*
Russia	• land east of the Dvina and Dneiper rivers	• Lithuanian Belorussia • western Ukraine	• Courland • Lithuania east of the Neman River • the rest of Ukraine
	(All becoming part of new or existing guberniyas; many incorporated into Congress Poland after 1815)		
Austria	• Little Poland south of the Vistula River • Podolia west of the Zbruch River • Galicia *(All becoming the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria)*	n/a	• the rest of Little Poland *(becoming New Galicia, then transferring to Russian Poland after 1815)*


The Partitions of Poland
The map shows the collapse of Poland divided onto parts by its neighbours.
Each respective share of the Partitioning powers is marked with different colour.
Russia Prussia Austria
1772
1793
1795
Parnawa
Dorpat
Pskov
Wenden
Piltyń
Ryga
Mitawa
Lipawa
Kalmar
Brömsebro
Karlskrona
Miedniki
Dyneburg
Połock
Witebsk
Smoleńsk
Królewiec
Troki
Wilno
Lębork
Gdańsk
Bytów
Elbląg
Malbork
Lidzbark
Stettin
Drahim
Jansbork
Mścisław
Mińsk
Chełmno
Bydgoszcz
Toruń
Nowogródek
Słuck
Inowrocław
Poznań
Płock
Gniezno
Brześć Kuj.
Drohiczyn
Warsaw
Brześć Litewski
Łęczyca
Glogau
Kalisz
Rawa
Liegnitz
Sieradz
Breslau
Lublin
Chełm
Częstochowa
Oppeln
Sandomierz
Łuck
Równe
Czernichów
Kijów
Żytomierz
Kuttenberg
Kraków
Bełz
Lwów
Przemyśl
Sanok
Zsolna
Halicz
Trembowla
Kamieniec
Bracław
Kassa
Munkacs
Vienna

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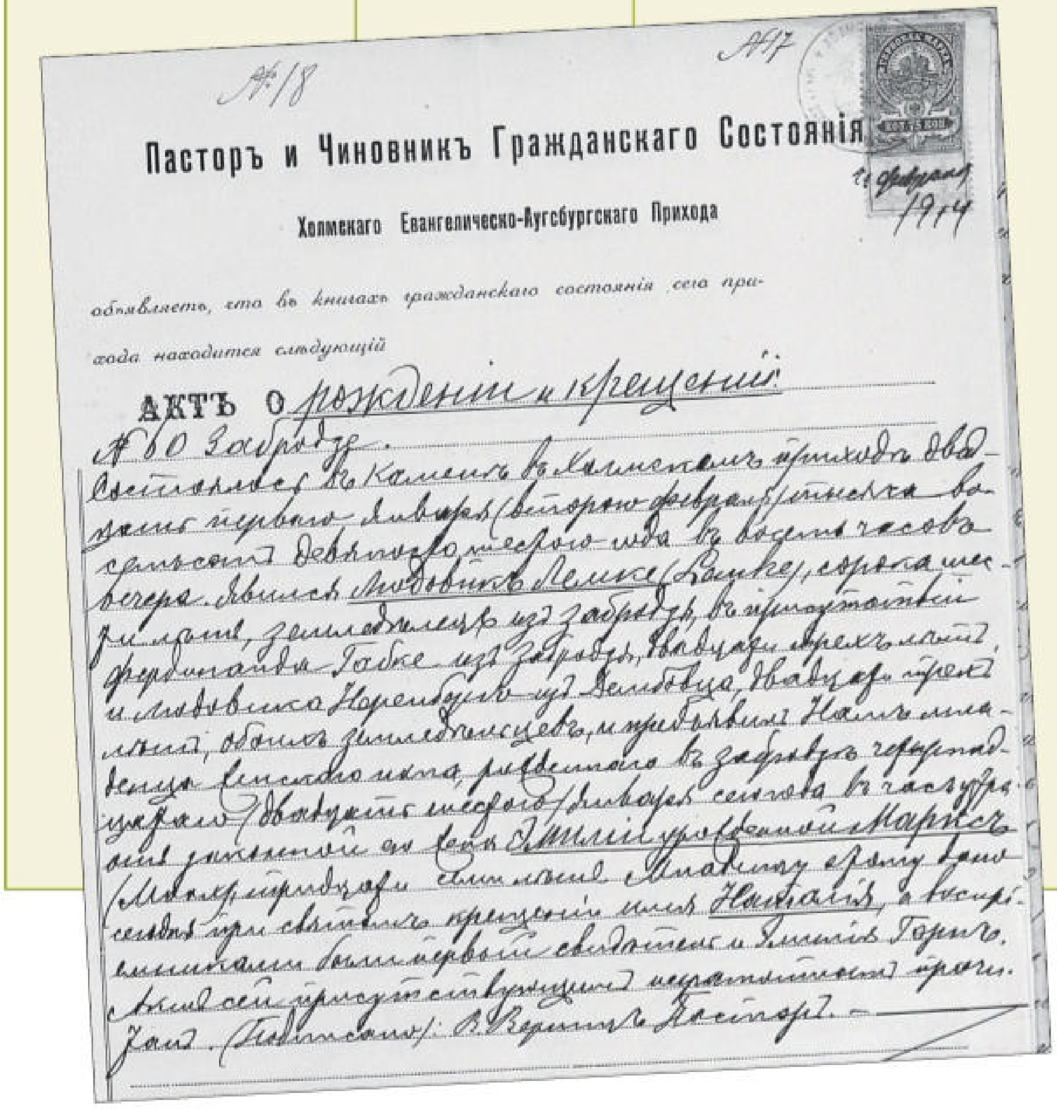
RECORDS QUICK GUIDE

VITAL RECORDS

Record Type	Polish name	Description	Typical contents
Birth register	akta urodzin	Lists of all births in a region, kept by the government	• date of birth/data entry • child's name • place and date of birth • parents' ages and residence • parents' religion (until mid-20th century) • names of witnesses (until mid-20th century)
Baptismal record	akta chrztów	Records of the religious rite of baptism in Christian churches, kept by parishes or archdioceses	• date of baptism • name of the child • name, occupation and age of the child's father • place of birth/parish where baptism occurred • date and time of birth • mother's given name and/or age • names, village and relationship to the child of the sponsors (e.g., godparents) • if the father was deceased • name of officiant • mother's maiden name • parents' house number • witnesses' occupations
Confirmation record	akta konfirmacja	Records of the religious rite of confirmation; kept sparingly (and many have been lost to time or war)	• names of the confirmed child and his father • child's age or date of birth • family's residence
Marriage records	akta małżeństwo, akta ślubów	Record of a marriage ceremony, kept by either the church performing the ceremony or the civil government	• date and place of marriage • names, religion and residences of the bride and groom • groom's occupation • names of parents and witnesses • name of the officiant (church only) • names, occupations and statuses (e.g., alive, dead, widower) of the bride's and groom's fathers and mothers (church only) • information about previous spouses, if any (church only) • ages and birthplaces of the bride and groom (church only) • bride's occupation (church only)



№18 №17

Пасторъ и Чиновникъ Гражданскаго Состоянія

Холмскаго Евангелическо-Аугсбургскаго Прихода

объявляетъ, что въ книгахъ гражданскаго состоянія сего прихода находится слѣдующій

АКТЪ О рожденіи и крещеніи

1914

Marriage record from Congress Poland, 1914. Accessed on FamilySearch

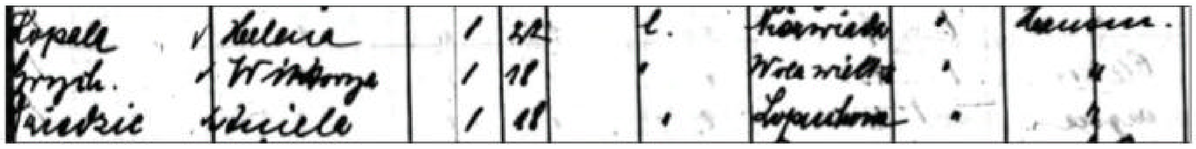
VITAL RECORDS

Record Type	Polish name	Description	Typical contents
Death register	akta zejść, akta zgonów	List of all the deaths in a region, kept by the government	• date of death • description (age, occupation, marital status, etc.) of the deceased • information about the deceased's father (if deceased was a child) • information about the deceased's spouse (if deceased was married) or surviving children • woman's maiden name • residence of the deceased • information about the deceased adult's parents • cause of death
Burial record	akta pogrzebów	Records of the religious rite of burial in Christian churches, kept by the parish or archdiocese	• date of burial • date of death • description (age, occupation, marital status, etc.) of the deceased • information about the deceased's father (if deceased was a child) • detailed information about the deceased's spouse (if deceased was married) or surviving children • woman's maiden name • residence of the deceased • information about the deceased adult's parents • cause of death • time of day when the death occurred • funeral sermon

OTHER RECORDS

Record Type	Description	Typical contents
Draft lists	Information compiled to fulfill draft requirements; each partitioning power gave different dates for mandatory conscription: Prussia in 1816, Russia in 1874, and Austria in 1868	• name, occupation, level of education, marital status, health condition, and residence of recruit • names of recruit's parents and female relatives (e.g., wife)
Household tax registers	Lists of individuals and a summary of their belongings, used in taxation	• names of heads of household who own taxable property
Military muster rolls	Records documenting ancestors' service in the armed forces; typically reside in the archives of the partitioning powers (Prussia/Germany, Russia, Austria)	• name, birth date, birthplace and residence of soldier • date and place of muster
Parish censuses	Population counts taken by local parishes	• names and ages of heads of household • names and ages of residents in a house (including servants and farmhands) • birth, marriage and death dates • accounts of military service • accounts of immigration

OTHER RECORDS

Record Type	Description	Typical contents
Passenger lists	Records of immigrants who passed through a particular port of departure; for Poles, this was typically from Hamburg, Germany	names, ages, occupations, last residences, relationships and birthplaces of immigrants
 Entry from the Hamburg Passenger List collection on Ancestry.com		
Population registers	Records taken by the government that registered citizens' place of residence	names, birth dates and birthplaces family relationships and marital status parents' names
Yizkor books	"Books of remembrance" published after World War II to preserve the Jewish communities devastated by World War II and the Holocaust	names of residents histories of Jewish communities

RESOURCES

Websites

Archiwa Państwowe (National Digital Archives) <www.nac.gov.pl>

Archiwum Glowne Akt Dawnych (AGAD, Central Archives of Historical Records) <www.agad.gov.pl>

Baza Systemu Indeksacji Archiwalnej (BaSIA, Database of the Archival Indexing System) <basia.famula.pl>

Cyndi's List: Poland <www.cyndislist.com/poland.htm>

FORGEN Genealogical Forum <www.forgen.pl> (archived)

Geneteka <geneteka.genealodzy.pl>

Genealogia Polska/Free Genealogy <genpol.us>

HalGal <www.halgal.com>

MasterPage (Facts About Poland) <www.masterpage.com.pl/imieniny.html>

Metryki <metryki.genealodzy.pl>

Polish Genealogical Society of America <www.pgsa.org>

Polish Roots <www.polishroots.com>

PolandGenWeb <sites.rootsweb.com/~polwgw/polandgen.html>

PolishOrigins <polishorigins.com>

Poznan Marriage Project <www.poznan-project.psnc.pl>

Szuka w Archiwah (Search the Archives) <www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/en/strona_glowna>

Books

Dictionary of Surnames in Current Use in Poland at the Beginning of the 21st Century, compiled by Kazimierz Rymut (Polish Genealogical Society of America)

The Family Tree Polish, Czech, and Slovak Genealogy Guide by Lisa A. Alzo (Family Tree Books, 2016)

First Names of the Polish Commonwealth: Origins and Meanings by William F. Hoffman and George W. Helon (Polish Genealogical Society of America)

God's Playground: A History of Poland, Vol. I: The Origins to 1795, revised edition by Norman Davies (Columbia University Press)

God's Playground: A History of Poland, Vol. II: 1795 to Present, revised second edition by Norman Davies (Columbia University Press)

Going Home: A Guide to Polish-American Genealogical Research by Jonathan D. Shea (Language & Lineage Press)

Polish Roots, second edition by Rosemary A. Chorzempa (Genealogical Publishing Company)

Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings, third edition by William F. Hoffman (Polish Genealogical Society of America)

Sto Lat: A Modern Approach to Polish Genealogy by Ceil Wendt Jensen (Michigan Polonia)

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

966 Mieszko I, leader of the Polanie people, adopts Catholicism, an event generally regarded as the beginning of Polish history.

1386 Jadwiga, queen of Poland, marries the grand duke of Lithuania, the first of several unions between the two powers.

1569 The Polish Parliament (Sejm) unifies Poland and Lithuania into the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

1655 Sweden invades Poland as part of the Second Northern war. The "Swedish Deluge" resulted in the death of 40 percent of Poles.

1772 Russia, Poland and Austria seize 30 percent of Poland's territory in the First Partition of Poland.

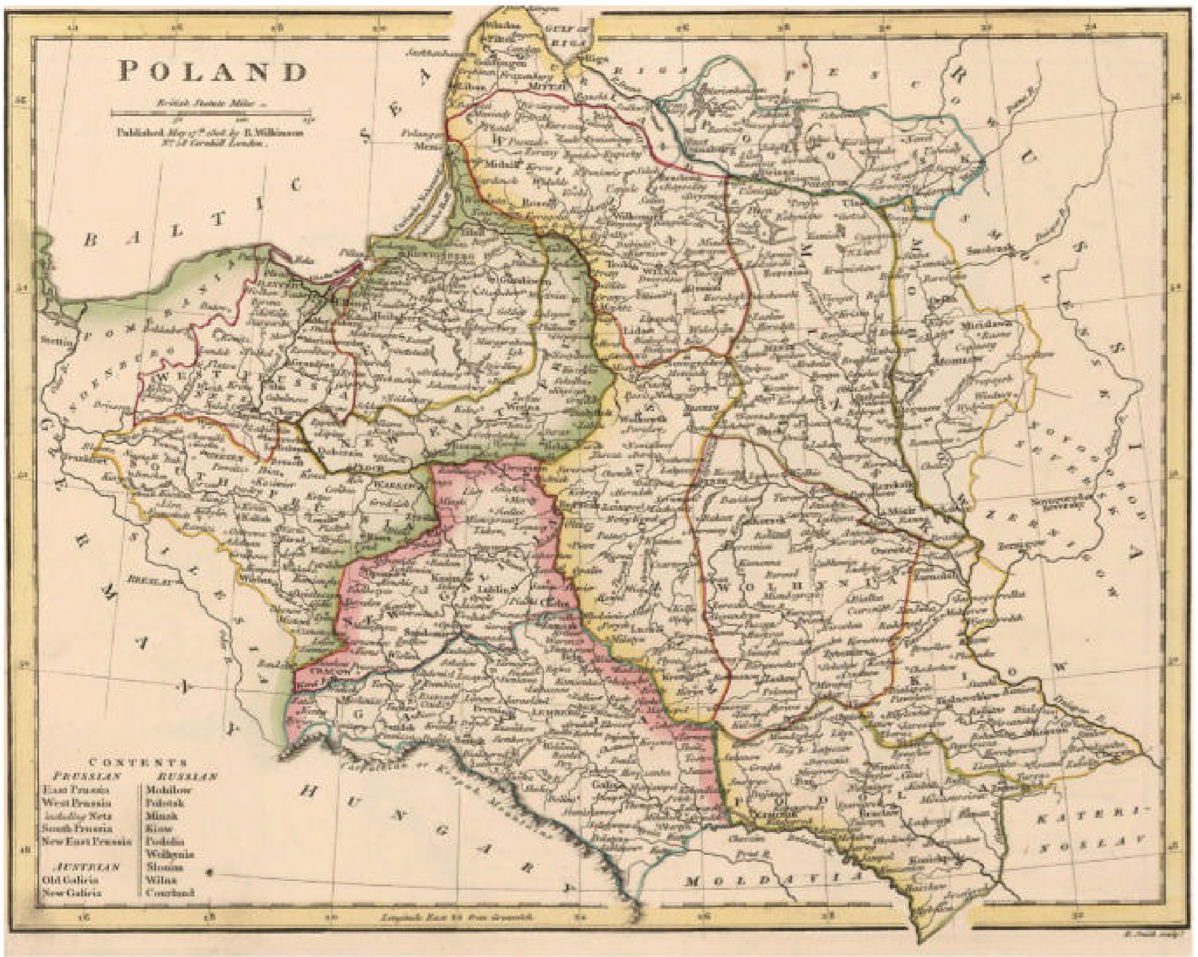
1792 Russia and Prussia take more than half of Poland's remaining territory in the Second Partition of Poland.

1795 Russia, Prussia and Austria carve up remaining Polish territory in the Third Partition of Poland.

1807 During the Napoleonic Wars, Napoleon forms the semi-independent Duchy of Warsaw out of Prussian Poland. That same year, Prussia abolishes serfdom.

1815 After Napoleon's defeat, the Congress of Vienna partitions the Duchy of Warsaw between Prussia and Russia. Russia incorporates much of its formerly Polish territory into a semiautonomous state known as "Congress Poland."

1848 Serfdom is abolished in the Austrian Empire.



1808 map of Poland during the Partition era. Courtesy David Rumsey Map Collection.

1852 The Democratic Society of Poles in America, the first Polish-American ethnic organization, is founded.

1861 Serfdom is abolished in Russia.

1868 Russian officials ban the Polish language.

1870 Poles begin emigrating in massive numbers to the United States.

1874 Separate civil registration is introduced in Prussian Poland.

1887 The Polish Falcons of America, one of the largest Polish-American fraternal organizations, is founded.

1914 Poland becomes a fighting ground in World War I.

1918 The Second Polish Republic is founded after the war.

1926 Józef Piłsudski makes himself dictator after a coup.

1939 A second wave of Polish immigration to America begins; World War II in Europe begins when Nazi Germany invades Poland.

1945 The Soviet Union drives out the Nazis and establishes the Polish People's Republic; by the end of World War II, many Poles (including 90 percent of the country's Jewish population) have been deported to labor camps.

1946 Poland establishes universal civil registration.

1989 Communist rule in Poland ends.

1999 Poland joins NATO.

2004 Poland joins the European Union.

2010 In the US federal census, 9.5 million Americans report having Polish ancestry.

LANGUAGE QUICK GUIDE

ALPHABET

Uppercase	Lowercase
A	a
Ą	ą
B	b
C	c
Ć	ć
D	d
E	e
Ę	ę
F	f
G	g
H	h
I	i
J	j
K	k
L	l
Ł	ł
M	m
N	n

ALPHABET

Uppercase	Lowercase
Ń	ń
O	o
Ó	ó
P	p
(Q)	(q)
R	r
S	s
Ś	ś
T	t
U	u
(V)	(v)
W	w
(X)	(x)
Y	y
Z	z
Ź	ź
Ż	ż

Note: The letters Q, V and X are not native to the Polish language. You'll only see them in words borrowed from other languages.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Letter(s)	Sound	Example
ą	om, on	bonk, chomp
c	ts	pits
ch, h	k	kite
ć, cz, ci	ch	chomp
dz	ds	pounds
ę	em, en	sense, ten
j	y	yacht
ł	w	wash
ś, sz, si, ź, zi	sh	sheep
ż, rz	zh	vision

NUMBERS

	Cardinal (one, two...)	Ordinal (first, second...)
1	jeden, jedna	pierwszy
2	dwa, dwie	drugi
3	trzy	trzeci
4	cztery	czwarty
5	pięć	piąty
6	sześć	szósty
7	siedem	siódmy
8	osiem	ósmy
9	dziewięć	dziewiąty
10	dziesięć	dziesiąty
11	jedenaście	jedenasty
12	dwanaście	dwunasty
13	trzynaście	trzynasty
14	czternaście	czternasty
15	piętnaście	piętnasty
16	szesnaście	szesnasty
17	siedemnaście	siedemnasty
18	osiemnaście	osiemnasty
19	dziewiętnaście	dziewiętnasty
20	dwadzieścia	dwudziesty
21	dwadzieścia jeden	dwudziesty pierwszy
22	dwadzieścia dwa	dwudziesty drugi
23	dwadzieścia trzy	dwudziesty trzeci
24	dwadzieścia cztery	dwudziesty czwarty
25	dwadzieścia pięć	dwudziesty piąty
26	dwadzieścia sześć	dwudziesty szósty
27	dwadzieścia siedem	dwudziesty siódmy
28	dwadzieścia osiem	dwudziesty ósmy
29	dwadzieścia dziewięć	dwudziesty dziewiąty
30	trzydzieści	trzydziesty
31	trzydzieści jeden	trzydziesty pierwszy
40	czterdzieści	czterdziesty
50	pięćdziesiąt	pięćdziesiąty
60	sześć dziesiąt	sześćdziesiąty
70	siedemdziesiąt	siedemdziesiąty
80	osiemdziesiąt	osiemdziesiąty
90	dziewiecdziesiąt	dziewięćdziesiąty
100	sto	setny

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

aunt	ciocia/ciotka
bride	panna młoda
brother	brat
child	dziecię, dziecko
cousin	kuzyn (m)/kuzynka (f)
daughter	córka
father	ojciec
granddaughter	wnuczek
grandfather	dziad/dziadek
grandmother	babka
grandson	wnuczek
great-grandfather	pradziadek
great-grandmother	prababa/prababka
groom	pan młody
husband	mąż, małżonek
mother	matka
parents	rodzice
sister	siostra
son	syn
uncle	stryj (paternal), wuj/wujek (maternal)
wife	żona, małżonka, zamężna

VITAL EVENTS

baptism	chrzest
baptized	ochrzony (m), ochrzona (f)
birth	urodzin, urodzony
birthplace	miejsce urodzenia
burial	pochowanie, pogrzeb
certificate	świadectwo/akt
death	zgon/śmierć
died	umarł/umarła
marriage	małżeństwo
married	żonaty (m)/mężatka (f)
marriage banns	zapowiedź
married couple	małżonkowie

DAYS OF THE WEEK

English	Polish
Sunday	niedziela
Monday	poniedziałek
Tuesday	wtorek
Wednesday	środa
Thursday	czwartek
Friday	piątek
Saturday	sobota

OTHER USEFUL TERMS

community	gmina
first name	imię, imion
Jewish	żydowski, starozakonny, izraelici, mojżeszowy
occupation/ social class	stan/zawód
parish	parafia
Protestant	ewangelicki, reformowany, protestancki, luterański
Roman Catholic	rzymsko-katolicki
religion	wyznanie
surname	nazwisko
village	wieś
year	rok/lat

MONTHS

English	Nominative (standard)	Genitive (possessive)
January	styczeń	stycznia
February	luty	lutego
March	marzec	marca
April	kwiecień	kwietnia
May	maj	maja
June	czerwiec	czerwca
July	lipiec	lipca
August	sierpień	sierpnia
September	wrzesień	września
October	październik	października
November	listopad	listopada
December	grudzień	grudnia

POLISH SPELLING TIPS

The Polish alphabet has additional letters compared to the English alphabet. In proper Polish, these new letters (which often look similar to others) are not interchangeable, and are alphabetized appropriately. For example, *ą* is a separate letter from *a*. Therefore, *ą* follows *a* in alphabetical listings and has a different sound. Handwriting can also cause confusion: In the old cursive style used in church records, the *s* is sometimes written like an *f*, as in *Morofki* for *Moroski*.

Also note changes may have been made to words and names in translation. The Polish letter *ł* (which sounds like the English *w*) is often transcribed into English like an *l* or like a *w*. You may also find it as a *t* if a non-Polish-speaking clerk misread it. The Polish nasal vowels *ą* and *ę* sometimes get transcribed into English simply as *a* and *e*. Or because of the sound heard by a non-Polish speaker, *ą* may be transcribed as *an*, *on*, *am*, or *om*. Likewise, *ę* may appear as *en* or *em*.